



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY



Fiscal Year 2004

Supreme Court Justices — 1864



Supreme Court Justices — 2004

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NEVADA JUDICIARY

The Work of Nevada's Courts  
July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004



HISTORIC COURT,  
PROGRESSIVE TIMES

Fiscal Year 2004



## JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

CHIEF JUSTICE  
MIRIAM SHEARING

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES

ROBERT E. ROSE	NANCY A. BECKER
DEBORAH A. AGOSTI	MARK GIBBONS
A. WILLIAM MAUPIN	MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS

MYRON E. LEAVITT  
(Deceased January 9, 2004)

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## The Nevada Supreme Court Seal

**When Nevada became a state**, the creation of a Supreme Court seal was authorized to symbolize the many aspects of justice. Impressions of the seal dating as far back as 1866 have been found.

The figure on the seal is the Goddess of Liberty holding in her left hand a liberty pole topped by a Phrygian cap. Her right hand supports a shield and she is accompanied on the seal by an eagle. With liberty on the public's mind because of the Civil War that was raging at the time Nevada became a state, the seal's designers decided to use the Goddess of Liberty instead of the Goddess of Justice to represent the Supreme Court. The politics of the war that brought about the birth of Nevada as a state and the preservation of the Union made this a logical choice.

On the upper part of the seal are the words 'Supreme Court State of Nevada,' preceded and followed by single stars. On the seal's lower edge are the Latin words *Fiat Justitia*, the court's motto, which means 'Let Justice be Done.'

The liberty pole and Phrygian cap continue the theme of 'Liberty' on the seal. Phrygia was an ancient Indo-European country captured by the Romans, who later freed their Phrygian slaves. Each former slave was given a soft, close-fitting conical cap to confirm his status as a free person. In the 1700s, French revolutionaries also adopted the Phrygian cap as a symbol of their freedom movement.

## Justice Portraits

**This year's Annual Report** of the Nevada Judiciary contains photographs of all but one of the Nevada Supreme Court justices who served during the state's first century — from the state's inception on October 31, 1864, through 1964.

The photographs, which hang in the Nevada Supreme Court Law Library, were provided courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society, the Nevada Judicial Historical Society, and the *Nevada Reports*.

The justice whose photograph is missing is Bernard C. Whitman, the state's fifth Supreme Court justice, who served from 1868 to 1874.

Group photos of the current Nevada Supreme Court are provided courtesy of G. Robison Photography.

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# A Message from the Chief Justice

**The citizens of Nevada** can be proud of their judiciary! The judges and court staffs are meeting the challenge of being asked to do more and more without a corresponding increase in resources. The traditional role of judges was presiding over court cases fairly and making appropriate rulings. Now judges are being asked to help cure or alleviate intractable social ills such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental illness. Judges are being asked to carry ever-heavier caseloads while being exhorted to move cases more quickly. They are being asked to preside over ever more complex litigation. The most notable fact is that the judiciary is meeting these challenges!

Judicial districts across the state have established or are establishing Drug Courts. These courts have proven successful in helping to keep substance abusers out of jails and prisons and turning them into productive citizens. Mental Health Courts are being established to help people with mental problems stay on their medications and lead productive lives. Every success in Domestic Violence Court means there is a family whose members have a better chance at leading happy and productive lives.

The courts have been resourceful in handling the increasing number of cases that comes with the stunning growth in Nevada. Judges have been active in settlement conferences and have encouraged the use of alternate dispute resolution methods. The judges have developed an innovative short jury trial program in which small juries decide certain cases after 1-day trials – expediting cases while preserving the right of litigants to a trial before a citizen jury. The urban courts have established specialized courts, such as Business Courts and courts focusing on complex litigation like construction defects and medical malpractice. This lets judges develop expertise in these areas of law. The great growth in construction in Nevada has resulted in an explosion in construction litigation and it is important that the cases be dealt with quickly and efficiently. When Business Courts rapidly resolve business disputes, it encourages individuals and companies to do business in Nevada.

The courts are also using technology to deal with cases more efficiently. The courts are lagging behind the private sector in taking advantage of technology to increase efficiency, but progress is being made. The rural courts and the Clark County Justice Courts are collaborating on one automated case management system. Clark County District Court is experimenting with e-filing and a paperless case management and storage system. The Supreme Court is also working toward e-filing. We all look forward to the day when the tons of paper used in the courts can be reduced or eliminated, and the public can have access to court documents over the internet.

It is vital that all citizens of Nevada have access to the justice system. The high cost of litigation has resulted in more people coming to court without attorneys, especially in Family Court.



Some Family Courts have established self-help centers to assist people who want or need to represent themselves. Additionally, a statewide committee has developed forms for use by unrepresented litigants in divorce and child custody cases. The committee is also developing forms for use in other matters in Family and Justice Courts. Meanwhile, court interpreter certification has been established to help ensure access to the courts by all citizens.

The courts have also been working to improve jury service. The 2003 Legislature passed court-recommended improvements in jury compensation and service. This year the Supreme Court approved rules to further improve jury service in Nevada.

All in all, the citizens can be proud of the accomplishments of their courts. The judges and court staffs are to be congratulated on their dedication, hard work, and continuing efforts to make the courts more responsive to the needs of its citizens. I am proud to have served in the Nevada Judiciary.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Miriam Shearing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Miriam Shearing  
Chief Justice  
Nevada Supreme Court



# Report from the Administrative Office of the Courts

**This report is just** the fifth Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary. Its genesis began roughly a decade ago as the Nevada Supreme Court dedicated itself to a course of action to modernize and reform the judiciary. A key piece was the requirement that all courts compile and report caseload statistics to give the judiciary, for the first time, a picture of what our courts do. Those statistics are provided throughout this report.

But beyond the collection of statistics, I believe the efforts of the Nevada Judiciary have been dramatic. Nevada's judges are working harder. Cases are being processed more efficiently. The courts are more open and accessible than ever. These accomplishments, however, would have been impossible without the dedication of the judges and courts at every level to the ideals of an impartial, independent, and efficient judiciary.

The judiciary should be proud of itself and the citizens of Nevada should be proud of its judiciary.

During fiscal year 2004:

- The work of the highly acclaimed Jury Improvement Commission continued. Acting on recommendations by the Commission, the Nevada Legislature enacted laws to increase juror pay and eliminate occupational exemptions for jury service. Other reforms are on the horizon as the Jury Improvement Implementation Committee works to formalize other recommendations of the Commission.
- The judiciary launched a study of the ways we pay for our courts through the Commission on Court Funding.
- The Specialty Court Funding Committee was established to allocate the judiciary's limited funds to maintain and expand Nevada's immensely successful Drug Courts and fund the developing Mental Health Courts.
- The Rural Courts Commission concluded its work by issuing a report that detailed the plight of the courts in sparsely populated areas, which have been struggling during hard economic times. This, perhaps, has been our most successful commission. As a result of its work, an Interim Study Committee of the Nevada Legislature has recommended that the Legislature fund seven projects - including the construction of a new White Pine County Courthouse.
- Nineteen courts are using a common Case Management System sponsored by the AOC.
- The highly acclaimed Multi-County Integrated Justice System (MC-IJIS) continued to gather national accolades as its use expands in Nevada.

Along with more detailed looks at these improvements, this Annual Report examines the caseload in our courts. Statistics in this Annual Report are more extensive and more accurate than



previous reports, although we are still making adjustments to improve the collection of the information that is vital in determining how the courts operate. These statistics highlight the following:

- Civil cases continue to show the largest increase. Total civil cases are nearing the number of criminal cases — each more than 145,000 cases per year.
- Traffic cases are down almost 4 percent statewide.
- Family Court cases comprise 44 percent of District Court caseloads.
- The average number of non-traffic cases per Justice of the Peace reached almost 3,000. This is expected to increase next year when civil case monetary jurisdiction increases from \$7,500 to \$10,000 in January 2005.

As has been the case for the past decade, the progress of Nevada's Judicial Branch would not have been possible without the vision and enthusiastic leadership of the Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court and the collaboration and cooperation of the judges and staffs of the trial courts and the employees of the AOC. Together, we continue our goal of providing justice to all citizens of Nevada.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Titus".

Ronald R. Titus  
State Court Administrator

# REMEMBERING JUSTICE MYRON E. LEAVITT (1930-2004)

**The Supreme Court** and the State of Nevada mourned the passing of Justice Myron E. Leavitt on January 9, 2004, at age 73. He had been recovering from a kidney transplant when he died in Las Vegas.

Justice Leavitt's public sector service extended far beyond the judiciary, although that is where he began and ended his career. He began his elective career as a Las Vegas Justice of the Peace in 1961. A decade later he was elected to the Clark County Commission (1971-74) and the Las Vegas City Council (1975-78). He was then chosen by voters for a 4-year term as Lieutenant Governor of the State of Nevada (1979-83).

Justice Leavitt subsequently returned to the full-time private practice of law — a career that began nearly 28 years earlier. In 1984, then-Governor Richard Bryan appointed him to the District Court bench in Clark

County. He was retained in three elections and served until he was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 1998. He was re-elected in 2000 to a term that was to expire in 2007.

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*“Justice Leavitt led  
a remarkable life  
and left a legacy  
of goodness.”*

— Justice A. William Maupin

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Justice Leavitt's legacy, however, extends far beyond the statistical record of his professional life. He and his wife, Shirley, had 11 children and Justice Leavitt became the consummate father, guiding his children and their friends throughout their lives. Five of his children went on to become attorneys and one,

Michelle Leavitt, is serving as a District Court judge — appropriately in the Department 12 seat her father had once occupied. As a lifelong Las Vegan, Justice Leavitt touched the lives of thousands of residents and more than 1,500 of them gathered for his funeral.

Justice A. William Maupin said Justice Leavitt “led a remarkable life and left a legacy of goodness.” Governor Kenny Guinn, who had coached Pop Warner football teams against Justice Leavitt's teams, called the justice “a unique person with caring and love for his community.” Former Nevada Governor and U.S. Senator Richard Bryan remembered Justice Leavitt as a “down home individual” with a great sense of humor. Chief Justice Miriam Shearing said Justice Leavitt was “a generous person who added so much to the court.”





# Chief Justice Miriam Shearing Retires

**Chief Justice Miriam Shearing** decided to retire from the Nevada Supreme Court seat she first won in 1992. Her retirement ends a 28-year judicial career full of “firsts.”

In 1976, following a career in private practice, she became the first woman elected as Justice of the Peace in Las Vegas. In 1982, Justice Shearing became Nevada’s first woman to be elected as a District Court judge. In that position, she not only presided over civil and criminal cases, but also served 3 years of her decade at District Court as Clark County Juvenile Court judge. In that capacity, she not only was the judge, but also was responsible for the administration of the agency that was, at the time, a division of the judiciary.

Justice Shearing became the first woman to sit on the Nevada Supreme Court following her election in 1992. She served as Chief Justice in 1997 – another first for a woman in Nevada – and again in 2004 as a fitting finale to her career.

As Chief Justice, she helped to reorganize the court, increase its professionalism and move the Supreme Court toward a paperless court system, which will let the courts handle cases faster and more efficiently without the need for huge file rooms for paper documents.

Chief Justice Shearing’s involvement and influence extended far beyond Nevada’s judiciary. From 2000 to 2003 she served as Chairperson of the American Judicature Society, a non-partisan organization of judges, lawyers, and the public, that works to maintain the independence and integrity of the courts and increase public understanding of the justice system. She has served as a four-state representative on the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association National Conference of State Trial Judges, and Chair of the Nevada State-Federal Judicial Council. She serves as the Nevada State Co-Chair of the American Bar Foundation Fellows and on the Fellows Advisory Research Committee.

She has received the Distinguished Jurist Award from the Nevada Judges Association and has been named Professional Mother of the Year, Woman of the Year in Law by the Women’s Council of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. She also was named Attorney of the Year by the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers.

During 2003, the Clark County Bar Association and the Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys honored Justice Shearing for her many years of service. The State Bar of Nevada honored her during a dinner at its annual meeting in June 2004.



# Justice Deborah A. Agosti Retires

**Justice Deborah A. Agosti** chose not to seek re-election in 2004, due to health concerns that would have made it difficult to endure the rigors of campaigning, and the desire to spend more time with her two sons.

She served one term on the Nevada Supreme Court, but her impact was felt across the judiciary. She served as Chief Justice during 2003 and created the Specialty Court Funding Committee — to determine ways to fully finance the highly successful Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts — and the Court Funding Commission — to study for the first time the way the judiciary in Nevada is funded.

Justice Agosti also served as co-chair, along with Justice Robert E. Rose, of the widely regarded Jury Improvement Commission. The work of that Commission resulted in legislative changes that increased jury pay and abolished occupational exemptions from jury service.

In 1983, Justice Agosti was elected the first woman Justice of the Peace in Reno Township, where she had served as senior staff attorney for the Senior Citizens Legal Assistance Program and a deputy district attorney.

A year later, she became the first woman elected to the District Court bench in Washoe County. She was twice re-elected by voters. As a highly rated district judge, she ran for the Nevada Supreme Court in 1998 and faced no opposition. In addition to her judicial duties, she also served as an instructor at the National Judicial College.

In 1997, Justice Agosti was named District Judge of the Year by her colleagues in the Nevada District Judges Association, where she had served as president in 1990-91. In 1993, she was named Outstanding Woman Lawyer by the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association.

In 1985, Justice Agosti was named One of America's 100 Young Women of Promise. During the two decades since then, her career showed she fulfilled that promise.





The statue of Kit Carson at the Nevada Supreme Court building in Carson City.



## The Original Supreme Court Building

After Nevada became a state on October 31, 1864, the Nevada Supreme Court had several homes before its first official courthouse - a stately art deco building (above) - was constructed in 1937. From 1864 to 1870, the Supreme Court had conducted its business in the Great Basin Hotel, on the site where the old Carson City Courthouse now stands. When the Capitol Building was constructed in 1871, chambers were built inside for the Supreme Court. Those chambers have been restored to their turn-of-the-century condition and are open to the public. The Court finally moved into its own building in 1937 and then to its current quarters in 1992. The original Supreme Court building currently provides office space for the Nevada Attorney General.



Justice John Neely Johnson  
(1867-70)



# Historic Court, Progressive Times

## Then

The early history of Nevada's courts is recorded in the cases that were handled by the few judges who were challenged to instill a sense of order and justice in an often violent and contentious land.

Dangerous altercations in the wild and woolly mining towns of the remote Nevada Territory were expected. But the courts were also required to resolve legal disputes between politically powerful mining interests vying for control of Nevada's riches and its land.

In 1861, when the Nevada Territory was established, President Abraham Lincoln appointed a three-justice territorial Supreme Court. Those justices not only comprised the territory's highest court, they also served as trial judges, riding circuit across the 100,000 square miles of sparsely populated land. Yet it was not the travel or trial duty that was to doom the territorial justices. The political pressures exerted on them from one or both sides in those volatile mining disputes led all three justices to resign in August 1864, as Nevada was on the threshold of becoming a state. It was not until after Nevada became a state on October 31, 1864, that Nevada's residents would again have a high court when the first three justices of the State Supreme Court were elected.

The Court remained at that size until the boom times of the 1960s, when in 1967 the Supreme Court was enlarged from three to five justices. In 1999, with Nevada becoming the fastest growing state in the Union, the Court was expanded again, this time to seven members. This expansion gave the Court the ability to begin hearing most appellate cases in three-judge panels. Membership on the panels rotates periodically. The most important cases, of course, are decided en banc (before all seven justices).

## Now

Despite its rocky beginnings, Nevada's judiciary is now one of the most progressive in the United States. The last few years have seen the Supreme Court take a more progressive leadership role and exercise its supervisory authority over the judicial branch of government. The result is a court system that is more uniform in its actions and more united in its goals. The Supreme Court required that statistical information about each trial court's cases be reported to the Administrative Office of the Courts. Those numbers have formed the basis for the statistical section of this Annual Report.

This Annual Report also tells the story of the many successful judicial programs — from the widespread computerization of the judiciary to the award winning Drug Courts to the court interpreter and pro bono programs that help certain individuals gain equal access to the courts.

The Annual Report additionally details the progressive work of commissions that examined the rural courts, the way the courts are funded, and how specialty courts (Drug and Mental Health Courts) are supported.

The past few years, and particularly fiscal year 2004, have truly been progressive times for an historic court.

Justice Charles Henry Belknap  
(1872-75 & 1881-1905)



Justice John Garber  
(1871-72)



# Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada



Standing (Left to Right): Justice Michael L. Douglas, Justice Mark Gibbons, Justice Nancy A. Becker  
Sitting: Justice A. William Maupin, Justice Deborah A. Agosti, Chief Justice Miriam Shearing, Justice Robert E. Rose



## Chief Justice Miriam Shearing

Chief Justice Miriam Shearing's judicial career has provided nearly a quarter century of "firsts" for women in Nevada. In 1976, after practicing law for over 10 years, she became the first woman elected as Justice of the Peace in Las Vegas. In 1982, she became the first woman elected as a District Court judge in Nevada. Chief Justice Shearing became the first woman on the Nevada Supreme Court with her election in 1992. She was re-elected without opposition in 1998 to a term ending in 2005. She served as Chief Justice in 1997 — becoming the first woman to hold that position — and again in 2004. After 28 years in the judiciary, she chose to retire from her full-time position on the bench.

## Vice Chief Justice Deborah A. Agosti

Justice Deborah A. Agosti has been a judge since 1982, when she became the first woman elected a Justice of the Peace in Reno. For 5 years before that, she was senior staff attorney for the Senior Citizens Legal Assistance Program in Reno and a Washoe County Deputy District Attorney. In 1984, she became the first woman elected District Court judge in Washoe County. In 1998, she was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court. She served as Chief Justice in 2003, creating a Supreme Court commission to study the way the judiciary is funded and a committee to determine how best to pay for the judiciary's Specialty Courts — Drug and Mental Health Courts. She chose to retire when her term ended in January 2005.

## Justice Robert E. Rose

Justice Robert E. Rose is serving in his third and final term on the Nevada Supreme Court. His service on the Court has capped a political career that began with his election as Washoe County District Attorney in 1970 and as Nevada Lieutenant Governor in 1974. He returned to the private practice of law in 1979 in Las Vegas, but in 1986 he was called back to public service when he was appointed to the District Court bench in Clark County. He was elected to the Supreme Court 2 years later and twice served as Chief Justice. He is scheduled to again assume the judiciary's top position in 2006 — the final year before he retires. As Chief Justice he created the Judicial Assessment Commission — the so-called "Rose Commission" — that took an in-depth look at how the judiciary functioned and recommended a variety of progressive reforms. He also created and co-chaired the Jury Improvement Commission.

## Justice A. William Maupin

By the time Justice A. William Maupin was appointed to the District Court bench in Clark County in 1993, he already spent 22 years as an attorney in both the public and private sectors. While he had handled murder cases as a deputy public defender, he focused his private law career on major civil litigation. As a private attorney, Justice Maupin chaired the Nevada Supreme Court committee on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) from 1992 to 1996, and is considered to have been a driving force behind the Court's arbitration program. Justice Maupin was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 1996. As Chief Justice during 2001 and 2002, he focused on revising and streamlining court case management systems to improve efficiency both at the Supreme Court and at the trial courts. His term ends in 2009.

## Justice Nancy A. Becker

Justice Nancy A. Becker is a native Las Vegas and the youngest of the seven members of the Nevada Supreme Court. She earned her law degree in 1979 while working for the late Sen. Howard Cannon in Washington, D.C. She returned to Nevada and a job at the Las Vegas City Attorney's Office. Her election in 1987 to the Las Vegas Municipal Court made her the first woman to preside at that city court. In 1989, she was appointed to a vacant seat at the District Court in Clark County, making her the first woman appointed as a District Court judge in Nevada. She served as Chief Judge in 1993 and 1994. Justice Becker was elected to the Supreme Court in 1998 and re-elected in 2000. She became Chief Justice in 2005. Her term of office expires in 2007.

## Justice Mark Gibbons

For the 21 years before Justice Mark Gibbons was elected to the Clark County District Court in 1996, he was a trial attorney specializing in real estate related matters. During his 6 years at the District Court, Justice Gibbons presided over 120 trials, including 13 murder cases. In 2001, he was elected Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court. He also served as a member of the highly acclaimed Supreme Court Jury Improvement Commission. Justice Gibbons was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2002. As a justice, he was appointed chair of the Jury Improvement Implementation Committee, planning how to enact the recommendations of the Jury Improvement Commission. He also chairs the Interim Specialty Court Funding Committee. His term ends in 2009.

## Justice Michael L. Douglas

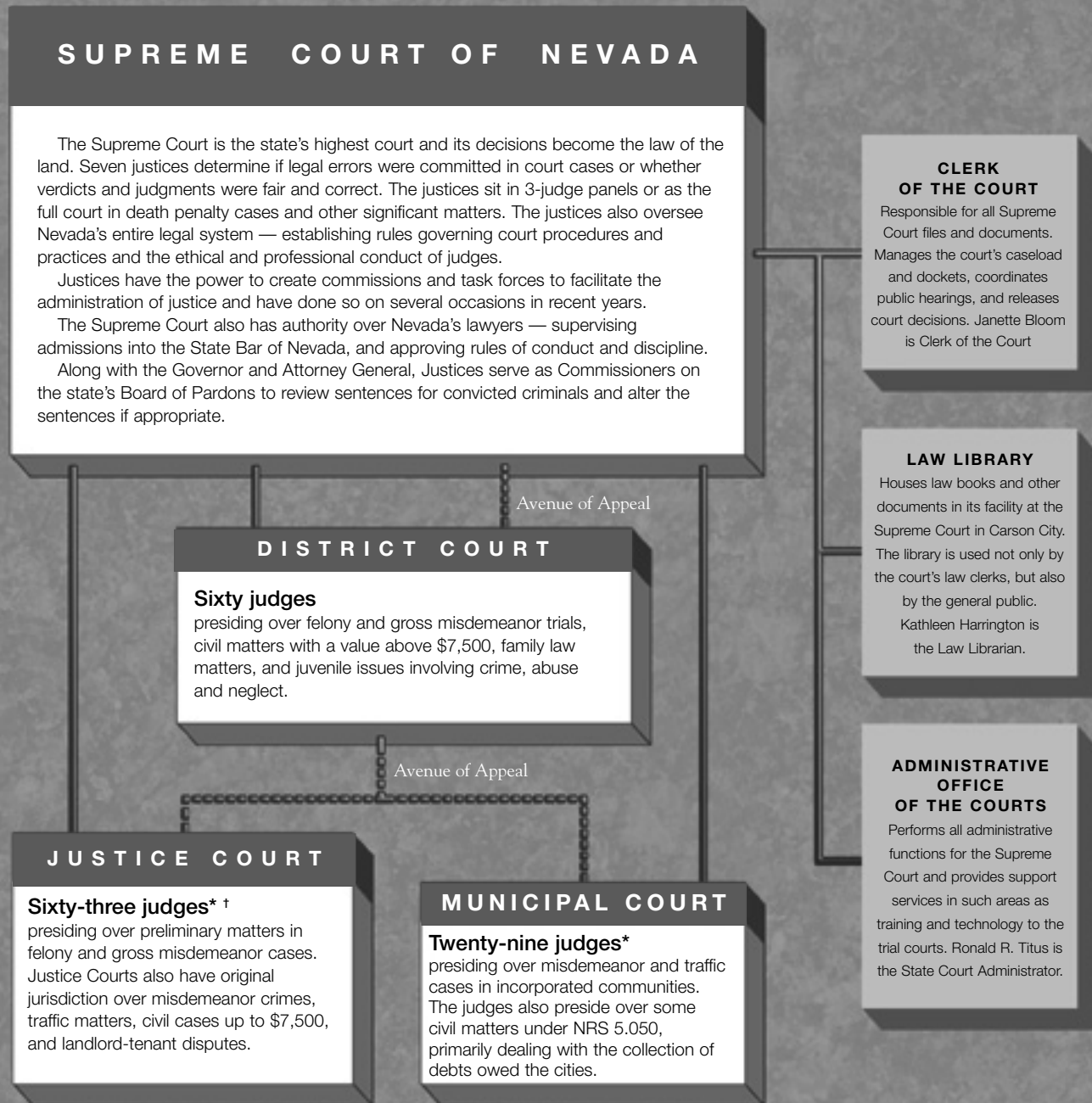
Justice Michael L. Douglas became the first African American on the Nevada Supreme Court when he was appointed to the seat by Governor Kenny Guinn in March 2004. He filled a vacancy that resulted from the death of Justice Myron E. Leavitt in January 2004. The appointment was the culmination of a 22-year legal career in Nevada that began by chance when Justice Douglas accepted what he thought was going to be a temporary job with Nevada Legal Services. Two years later, he was hired as a Deputy Clark County District Attorney and eventually became the head of the Civil Division. In 1996, he was appointed a District Court judge in Clark County, handling civil and criminal cases, and becoming one of the first two Business Court judges. In 2003, his fellow district judges elected him Chief Judge. His Supreme Court term expires in 2007.





# The Nevada Judicial System Structure and Function

Nevada's Judiciary is constitutionally mandated as the third branch of government, as independent and co-equal as the Executive and Legislative branches. Together, the three branches of government have served the citizens of Nevada since it became a state in 1864. The responsibility of the judiciary is to impartially resolve legal disputes brought before it. In Nevada, the judiciary consists of one appellate court, the Supreme Court, and three levels of trial courts — state District Courts, county Justice Courts, and city Municipal Courts. The chart below graphically depicts Nevada's court structure, and provides information about the number of judges as of June 30, 2004.



\* Ten lower court judges serve their communities as both justice of the peace and municipal judge.

† Two Justice Courts were closed during fiscal year 2004 — Gold Run Township in Humboldt County, and Gerlach Township in Washoe County.

## Funding

The judicial system received \$27,159,806 for fiscal year 2004 to fund the Supreme Court, district judges' salaries, and limited programs of the state court system — such as judicial education and court interpreter certification. The funding comes from administrative assessments, peremptory challenge fees, and the State General Fund, and is administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Administrative assessments are the fees charged to defendants in criminal cases. Peremptory challenge fees are paid by attorneys or litigants to exclude particular judges in civil cases. Together they make up about a third of the funding — or \$8,770,302. The State General Fund provides \$17,717,175, or about 65 percent of the funding. This amount represents the General Fund appropriation (as shown in the table below) plus one-time funding for specific programs. The \$17,717,175 represents less than 1 percent of the total state budget (see chart at right).

The Nevada Supreme Court has been examining the way the judiciary is funded through the Court Funding Commission (see page 13), which is made up of representatives of every level of the judiciary and the private sector.

## Expenditures

Funding administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts pays for the operating expenses of the Nevada Supreme Court, limited support services for the court system statewide, and salaries for Supreme Court justices and District Court judges.

The majority of state court costs are borne by the local governments. The operations of the District Courts, except for salaries and benefits of the judges and limited support services, are funded by county governments.

County governments also fund the Justice Courts, including the salaries of the justices of the peace. City governments fund the Municipal Courts in incorporated cities.

## General Fund Appropriations

### *The Judiciary's Share of State Funds*

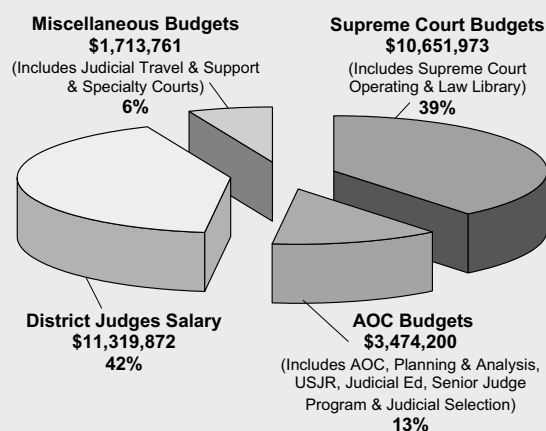
#### General Fund Appropriations\*

	FY2004	% of Total	FY2005	% of Total	Total Biennium	% of Total
Judicial Branch (Includes funding for the judicial system and the Commission on Judicial Discipline)	\$ 20,205,273	<b>0.88%</b>	\$ 20,850,901	<b>0.82%</b>	\$ 41,056,174	<b>0.85%</b>
Other State Government (Includes Constitutional Agencies, Finance & Administration, Education, Human Services, Commerce & Industry, Public Safety and Special Purpose Agencies)	\$ 2,282,870,631	99.12%	\$ 2,510,940,643	99.18%	\$ 4,793,811,275	99.15%
Total General Fund Appropriations	\$ 2,303,075,904	100.00%	\$ 2,531,791,544	100.00%	\$ 4,834,867,449	100.00%

**General Fund budget appropriations to the Nevada Judiciary continue to be less than 1% of the total state General Fund appropriations.**

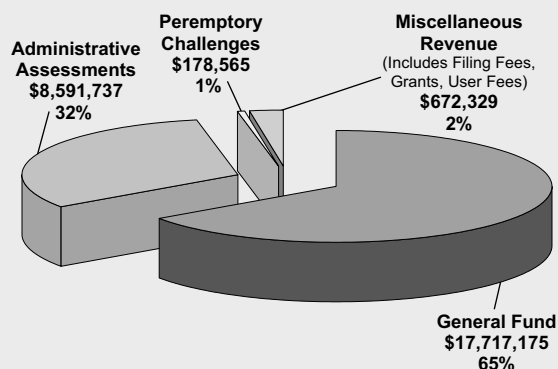
\*This table reflects total budgeted Legislative appropriations, including the Judicial Discipline Commission and an appropriation for the Judicial Retirement System that goes directly to the Public Employees Retirement System. Total expenditures for each year will differ based upon actual events and expenses during the year.

### JUDICIAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 2004



**TOTAL JUDICIAL EXPENDITURES**  
**\$27,159,806**

### JUDICIAL FUNDING SOURCES FISCAL YEAR 2004



**TOTAL JUDICIAL FUNDING**  
**\$27,159,806**



# The Nevada Judicial System Structure and Function

## District Courts

Nevada's District Courts make up the second level of the judiciary. They are courts of general jurisdiction and have the most authority of any trial court. This is where major trials are conducted and where citizens get their "day in court" before a jury of their peers. District Judges preside over felony and gross misdemeanor cases, civil matters above \$7,500 (increased to \$10,000 on January 1, 2005), and family law issues. The judges also decide a variety of complex legal disputes not requiring jury trials, including appeals of Justice and Municipal Court cases.

District Courts are a creation of the Nevada Constitution. The judges have jurisdiction throughout the state's 17 counties, although they are elected and serve primarily in one of the state's nine Judicial Districts. Five of those Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties in sparsely populated regions to best utilize the judges' time and taxpayer resources. The number and boundaries of the Judicial Districts are not permanent, and can be changed by the Legislature. Throughout the history of Nevada, there have been as few as 1 judicial district and as many as 10. Each county maintains its own county courthouse and pays the salaries of staff and the operating expenses of the District Court. The salaries of District Court judges are paid by the State of Nevada.

## Nevada's Judicial Districts and Judges

(as of June 30, 2004)

### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City & Storey County

Judge Michael Griffin  
Judge William Maddox

### SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Washoe County

Judge Brent Adams  
Judge Janet Berry  
Judge Peter Breen  
Judge Frances Doherty  
Judge Steve Elliott  
Judge James Hardesty  
Judge Scott Jordan  
Judge Steven Kosach  
Judge Charles McGee  
Judge Jerome Polaha  
Judge Deborah Schumacher  
Judge Connie Steinheimer

### THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Churchill & Lyon Counties

Judge Archie Blake  
Judge Robert Estes  
Judge David Huff

### FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Elko County

Judge Mike Memeo  
Judge Andrew Puccinelli

### FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Esmeralda, Mineral & Nye Counties

Judge John Davis  
Judge Robert Lane

### SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Humboldt, Lander & Pershing Counties

Judge John Iroz  
Judge Richard Wagner

### SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Eureka, Lincoln & White Pine Counties

Judge Steve Dobrescu  
Judge Dan Papez

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

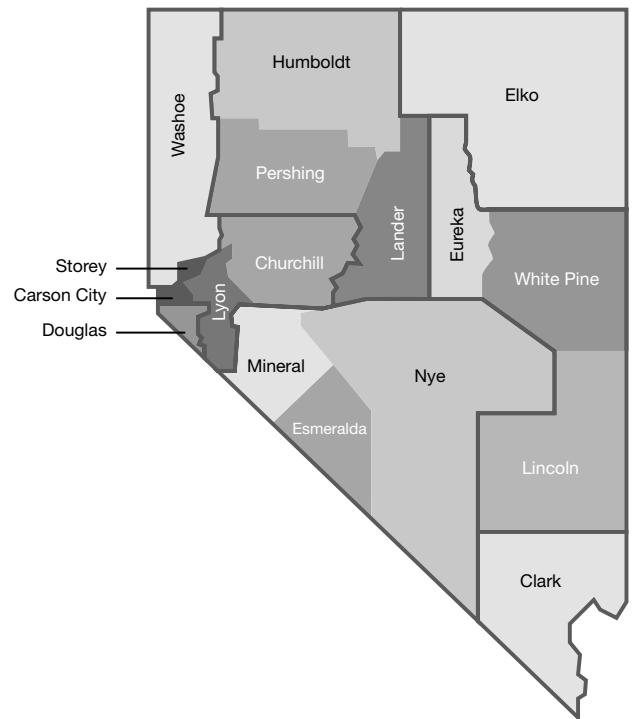
Clark County

Judge Valerie Adair  
Judge Stewart Bell  
Judge Joseph Bonaventure  
Judge Lisa Brown  
Judge Michael Cherry  
Judge Kenneth Cory  
Judge Nicholas Del Vecchio  
Judge Mark Denton  
Judge Allan Earl  
Judge Jennifer Elliott  
Judge Robert Gaston  
Judge Lee Gates  
Judge Jackie Glass  
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Judge Gerald Hardcastle  
Judge Kathy Hardcastle  
Judge Steven Jones  
Judge Michelle Leavitt  
Judge Sally Loehrer  
Judge Robert Lueck  
Judge John McGroarty  
Judge Donald Mosley  
Judge Cheryl Moss  
Judge Ronald Parraguirre  
Judge Arthur Ritchie  
Judge Nancy Saitta  
Judge Gloria Sanchez  
Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel  
Judge Jennifer Togliatti  
Judge Valorie Vega  
Judge William Voy  
Judge David Wall  
Judge Jessie Elizabeth Walsh

### NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Douglas County

Judge David Gamble  
Judge Michael Gibbons



Judicial District	Judicial Positions	Population as of 7-1-03	Caseload	Avg. cases per judge
First	2	58,956	3,017	1,509
Second	12	373,233	22,064	1,839
Third	3	67,052	4,000	1,333
Fourth	2	45,805	1,962	981
Fifth	2	42,454	2,597	1,259
Sixth	2	28,701	1,205	603
Seventh	2	17,330	646	323
Eighth	33	1,620,748	86,878	2,633
Ninth	2	45,603	1,764	882
TOTALS	60	2,296,566	124,133	2,068

# Justice Courts

The Justice Courts are county courts with responsibility for a variety of legal matters — from felony arraignments and preliminary hearings, to civil matters involving up to \$7,500 (increased to \$10,000 on January 1, 2005), small claims, and landlord-tenant disputes.

Justices of the Peace have authority over misdemeanor cases and traffic matters in unincorporated townships. In rural Nevada, many Justices of the Peace serve only part time.

## The Five Busiest Justice Courts

Justice Court	Population as of 7-1-03	Judicial Positions	Non-traffic caseload	Cases filed per judge*	Traffic & Parking
Las Vegas	1,182,623	8	115,754	14,469	205,582
Reno	234,438	5	26,461	5,292	40,589
Carson City	55,220	2	7,548	3,764	18,188
Union	14,483	1	3,757	3,757	5,506
Sparks	122,293	2	7,490	3,745	8,294

\* Traffic violations may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. Therefore, they are not included in “cases filed per judge.”

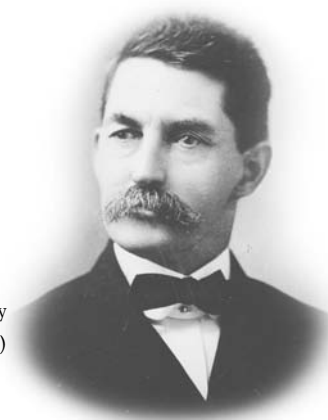
# Municipal Courts

Municipal Courts are city courts that operate within the city limits of incorporated municipalities to handle traffic violations and misdemeanor offenses. They also have limited jurisdiction in civil cases under NRS 5.050, primarily handling the collection of debts owed the cities. In rural communities, many of the Municipal Judges work part time.

## The Five Busiest Municipal Courts

Municipal Court	Population as of 7-1-03	Judicial Positions	Non-traffic caseload	Cases filed per judge*	Traffic & Parking
North Las Vegas	146,005	1	8,364	8,364	47,618
Las Vegas	528,617	6	28,259	4,710	115,710
Sparks	78,435	2	5,724	2,862	10,265
Henderson	217,448	2	5,353	2,677	23,315
Reno	195,727	4	7,598	1,900	26,131

\* Traffic violations may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. Therefore, they are not included in “cases filed per judge.”

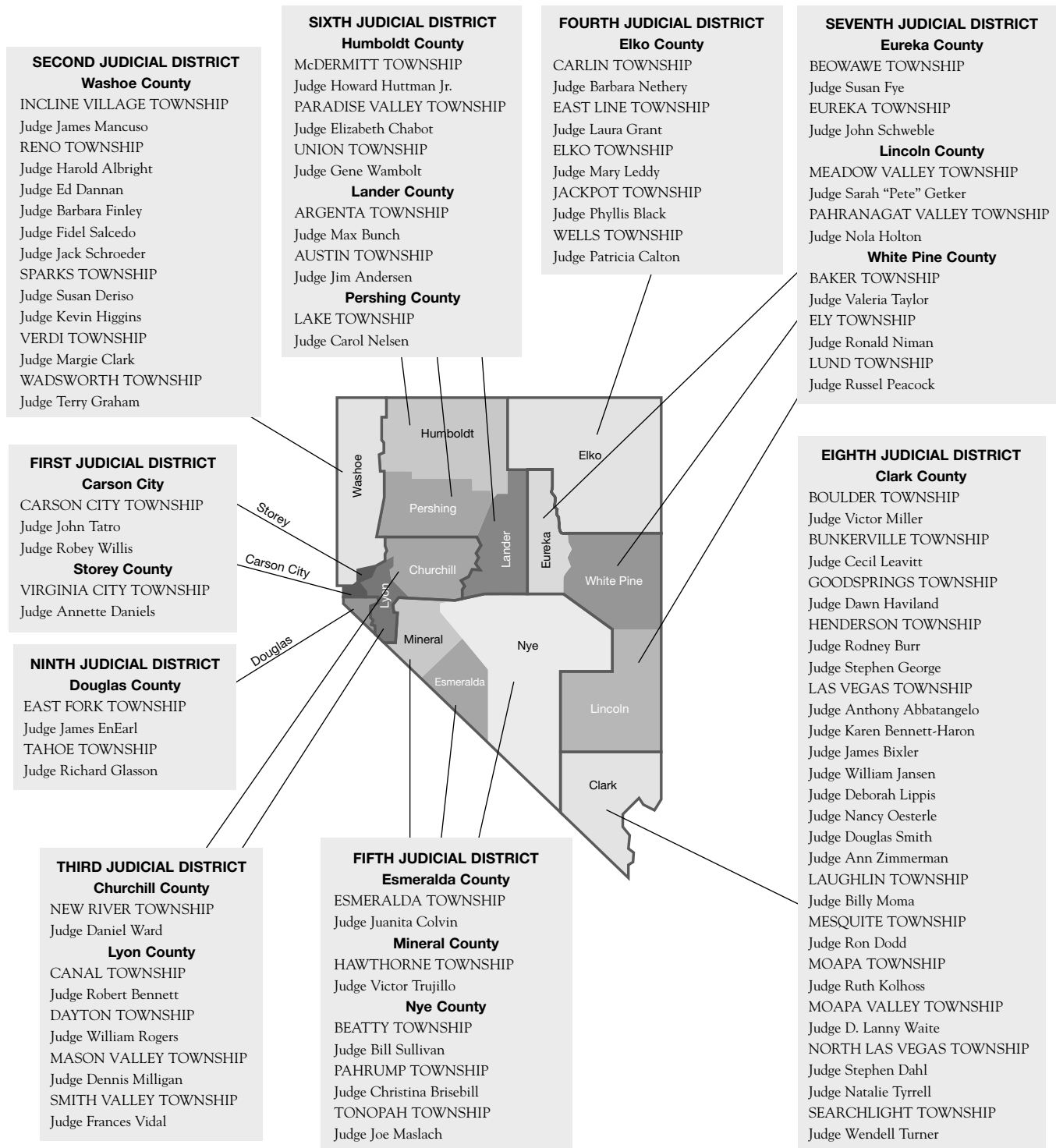


Justice Thomas Porter Hawley  
(1873-90)



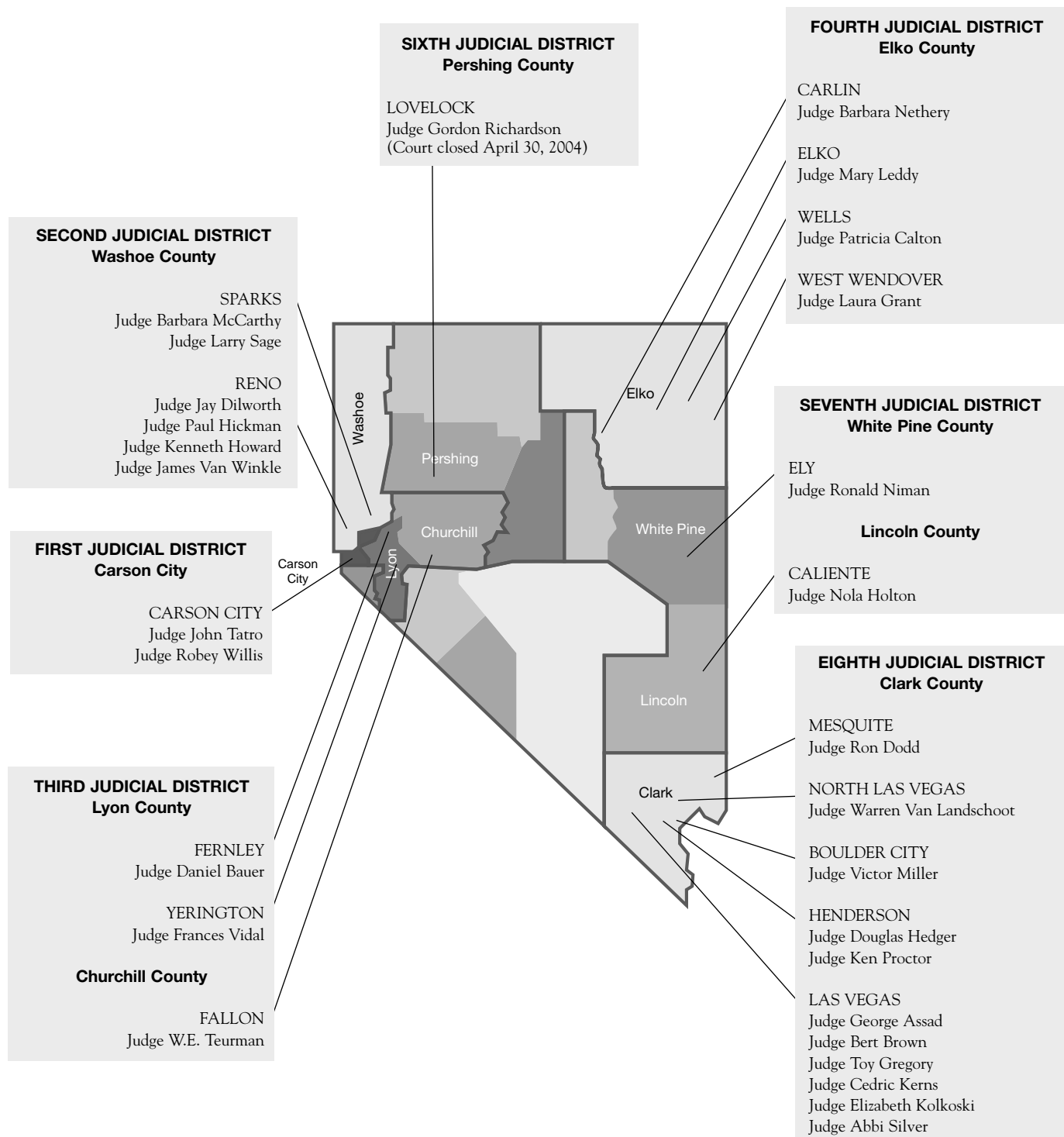
# The Nevada Judicial System Structure and Function

## Nevada's Justices of the Peace (as of June 30, 2004)





# Nevada's Municipal Court Judges (as of June 30, 2004)





# Judicial Council of the State of Nevada

## Judicial Council Members

(As of June 30, 2004)

**Chief Justice Miriam Shearing**  
*Chair*

**Justice Nancy Becker**  
*Vice-Chair*

Judge Max Bunch

Judge Ed Dannan

Judge Jay D. Dilworth

Judge Michael P. Gibbons

Judge Kathy Hardcastle

Judge James Hardesty

Judge Nola A. Holton

Judge John Iroz

Judge Charles M. McGee

Judge John McGroarty

Judge Dan L. Papez

Judge Ken Proctor

Judge Andrew Puccinelli

Judge William O. Voy

Judge D. Lanny Waite

Judge Jessie Walsh

Judge Robey B. Willis

### **Ex-Officio Members**

**Judge Ron Parraguirre**  
*Nevada District Judges Association*

**Judge Cedric Kerns**  
*Nevada Judges Association*

**Ron Titus**  
*State Court Administrator*

**Ron Longtin**  
*Court Administrator  
Second Judicial District Court*

**Chuck Short**  
*Court Administrator  
Eighth Judicial District Court*

*“To unite and promote Nevada’s judiciary  
as an equal, independent and effective branch  
of government.”*

**- Mission Statement, Judicial Council of the State of Nevada**

**In the handful of years** the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada has operated with additional administrative authority bestowed upon it by the Nevada Supreme Court, the Council has built a reputation as a progressive and effective arm of the judiciary.

The Judicial Council is comprised of 20 judges from across the state at every level and 3 court administrators. The Supreme Court Chief Justice is chairperson. Members from the various areas of the state meet independently in five Regional Judicial Councils that together form the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.

The Judicial Council has become instrumental in the continuing efforts to bring the state’s courts and judges into a judicial family, providing equal justice for all Nevadans. The Judicial Council helps the Supreme Court fulfill its administrative duties and improve the court system statewide.

A notable success was the establishment by the Judicial Council of the Commission on Rural Courts to identify problems in Nevada’s smaller courts and communities and recommend solutions. Details about the success of the Commission on Rural Courts can be found on page 12 in this report.

A new role of the Judicial Council is to approve disbursement of the money collected to fund Nevada’s array of Specialty Courts — Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts — and create opportunities for additional Specialty Courts throughout Nevada.

The Judicial Council also has responsibility to propose bills to the Nevada Legislature furthering the Council’s mission. Some bill drafts proposed by the Judicial Council would increase jurisdiction and supervision in drunken driving cases, change the dates for judicial candidates to file for election to 2 weeks in January, increase the number of judges at the Eighth Judicial District Court, and increase the value of cases involved in alternative dispute resolution programs from \$40,000 to \$50,000. In addition, the Judicial Council passed a resolution supporting funding for a new White Pine County Courthouse. Another resolution asks the Governor to create an office of institutional inspectors, following a federal investigation into management practices at the Nevada Youth Training Center in Elko.

The Judicial Council also developed a “Model Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees of the State of Nevada.”

Four standing committees have been established by the Judicial Council:

**Legislation and Rules** with a mission to promote and support a coordinated legislative strategy about legislation affecting the judiciary.

**Education** with a mission to promote the competency and professionalism of the Nevada judiciary and staff.

**Technology** with a mission to promote and facilitate the use of technology by the courts and promote the coordination, collaboration, and integration of technology efforts between the judiciary, and state and local governments.

**Court Administration** with a mission to promote excellence in court administration throughout the state by considering and addressing problems and recommending improvements to the Judicial Council.

The five Regional Judicial Councils are:

- Sierra Region (First, Third, and Ninth Judicial Districts)
- Washoe Region (Second Judicial District)
- North Central Region (Fourth and Sixth Judicial Districts)
- South Central Region (Fifth and Seventh Judicial Districts)
- Clark Region (Eighth Judicial District)

## Passings

### Justice Myron E. Leavitt

Nevada Supreme Court  
Justice from 1998 died on  
Jan. 9, 2004.

See *Remembering Justice*  
Myron E. Leavitt on page vi.

### Richard Minor

Reno Justice of the Peace  
from 1972 to 1983 and  
Second Judicial District  
Judge from 1983 to 1985,  
died in April 2004 after  
months of battling cancer.  
He was 82.

### John Barrett

Second Judicial District  
Judge from 1961 to 1985,  
died in June 2004.  
A founding member  
of the Nevada Judicial  
Historical Society,  
Judge Barrett was 87.



# The Work of the State Courts

## NEVADA JUDICIAL COUNCIL Commission on Rural Courts

**Some light appeared** at the end of the tunnel as a result of the report of the Commission on Rural Courts, which detailed the problems faced by judges and those who use the courts in Nevada's less populated, and often geographically isolated, areas. The report and its recommendations resulted in the Legislature creating the Interim Study Committee on the Criminal Justice System in Rural Nevada and Transitional Housing for Released Offenders (the so-called SCR-32 Committee). That legislative panel saw first hand the problems faced by many rural courts and made several recommendations, including that the state build a \$9 million courthouse in Ely, along with a badly needed juvenile facility.

In all, the interim study committee adopted seven recommendations that are scheduled to be addressed during the 2005 Legislature.

The report of the Commission on Rural Courts highlighted such problems as aging courthouses, limited professional

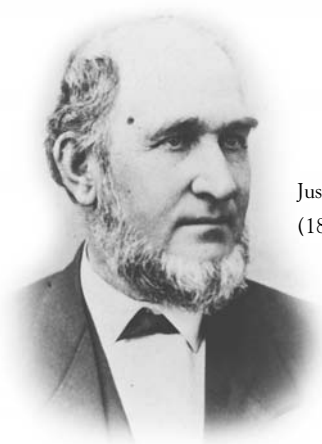
services, marginal security, the lack of legal assistance for residents, and unfunded mandates.

The recommendation by the interim study committee for a new White Pine County Courthouse followed a visit to the existing century-old facility in Ely. Seventh Judicial District Judge Dan Papez gave members a tour and explained that security at the courthouse is not adequate to handle cases of the most violent offenders from the state's nearby maximum security Ely State Prison.

The recommendation for a regional juvenile detention facility in Central Nevada was the result of information from the Commission that youthful offenders arrested in rural areas often had to be transported hundreds of miles to reach one of the few available juvenile facilities.

Other recommendations included:

- Funding for a Rural Court Coordinator at the Administrative Office of the Courts to help rural communities identify and share resources.
- Changing counseling and evaluation requirements in certain criminal cases because of the lack of such services in rural Nevada.
- Promoting the availability of legal services through an expansion of the externship program of the Boyd School of Law and a tuition reimbursement program for students who serve in rural Nevada.
- Increasing courtroom security training through courses offered by POST.
- Providing transitional housing for inmates being released from prison as a way to decrease recidivism.



Justice Warner Earl  
(1875-77)



*The historic White Pine County Courthouse in Ely.*

# NEVADA SUPREME COURT

## Commission on Court Funding

**Nevada's courts** have been funded in much the same way they have since Nevada became a state in 1864.

But rapid growth in the state's urban centers along with hard economic times in some rural areas have strained the existing systems. During fiscal year 2004, the Nevada Supreme Court created the **Commission on Court Funding** to examine sources of funding and court expenditures, and explore whether there is a better way. This is the first time the judiciary has taken such an in-depth look at the critical issue of court funding, which has increased in importance as the needs and costs for facilities, technology, communications, and service to the communities continue to grow.

The Commission surveyed the courts at every level to gather information necessary to help it determine what is fair, equitable, and reasonable funding for each court system. This has not been an easy task in a state as diverse as Nevada. Courts in the population centers of Las Vegas and Reno must deal with urban problems while some one-judge courts have to cope with larger geographic areas than any urban court faces and must deal with their own unique problems.

Justice Deborah A. Agosti chairs the Commission that will make a series of recommendations, which could eventually lead to a change in the way courts are funded. Currently, less than 1 percent of the State General Fund goes to the judiciary. Administrative assessments collected by the courts from those who commit misdemeanor crimes and traffic offenses fund the Administrative Office of the Courts and provide half of the Supreme Court budget.

Justice Orville Rinaldo Leonard  
(1877-89)



Justice William H. Beatty  
(1875-81)



Justice Michael Augustus Murphy  
(1889-95)





# The Work of the State Courts

## NEVADA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

### Specialty Court Funding Committee

**Since the first Drug Court** was created in Nevada in 1992, much of the funding was provided by the Legislature and the Governor through the State General Fund. But that principle source of funding changed when the 2003 Legislature (through AB29) cut the General Fund allocation and increased administrative assessments on misdemeanor crimes and traffic offenses to provide a source of court-generated funding. At the same time, courts around the state — both urban and rural — were making plans to expand existing Drug Courts, establish new Drug Courts, or create Mental Health Courts.

The question became how to allocate the available funds for these Specialty Courts to ensure that existing programs are maintained, while preparing for the inevitable growth in the highly successful programs.

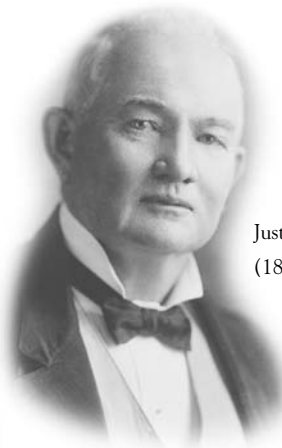
The Specialty Court Funding Committee was created by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada and members were appointed by the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. The task was to assess the state's needs for Specialty Courts, evaluate the operating requirements of the Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts, and make

recommendations for dispensing the available funding. The Committee's recommendations are sent to the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.

Because collection of the new assessments was a slow process at the beginning of fiscal year 2004, the ability of the judiciary to expand the Specialty Courts in Nevada was delayed. Even at the beginning of calendar year 2004, Specialty Court funds were marginal and the eventual amount that would be collected was unknown. This made it difficult for courts to contract with treatment providers for services. Collection of the assessments eventually grew and will meet revenue projections, but will not be sufficient, by themselves, to fully meet the needs of the Specialty Courts in Nevada. AB29 assessments were never intended to be the sole source of funding for Specialty Courts and seeking additional funds will be necessary.



Justice Rennselaer R. Bigelow  
(1890-97)



Justice William Alexander Massey  
(1897-1902)



Justice McKaskia Sterns Bonnifield  
(1895-1901)



# Specialty Courts

## Drug Courts

**Nevada has been** one of the nation's leaders in the Drug Court field, compiling an impressive list of "firsts" over the past decade.

During fiscal year 2004, the judiciary continued that commitment by again expanding the Drug Court system into rural Nevada, where citizens have not had the advantages of the innovative program that helps defendants deal with their drug dependencies under the watchful eyes of the Drug Court judges. The vast majority of participants beat their addictions and again become contributing members of society, reducing crime and the associated costs for the justice system. The newest Drug Court was launched in the Sixth Judicial District Court to serve residents of Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander Counties in north-central Nevada.

Two years ago, Nevada initiated the nation's first Multi-County Rural Drug Court, serving five counties in Western Nevada (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas,

Lyon, and Storey). Third Judicial District Judge Archie Blake rides circuit every week, like judges in the Old West, to serve those communities. Last year, he added a sixth county (Mineral) to his circuit. A similar Drug Court that would serve the rural communities in Eastern Nevada was in the planning stages during fiscal year 2004.

The state's first Drug Court began in Clark County in 1992, followed by similar Drug Courts in Washoe and Nye Counties. A multitude of Drug Courts now serve adults, juveniles, and Family Court litigants. They exist at District, Justice, and Municipal Courts.

## Mental Health Courts

Mental Health Courts are an expansion of the Drug Court concept, except that they are designed to keep defendants with mental issues from becoming chronic criminal offenders. Second Judicial District Judge Peter Breen began the state's first Mental Health Court in Washoe County. During fiscal year 2004, a similar Mental Health Court was

launched at the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County with a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. District Judges John McGroarty and Jackie Glass are presiding over the new court that will focus on diverting non-violent offenders into appropriate treatment programs. As in the Drug Courts, participants are monitored by the Mental Health Court judges to ensure they stay in treatment, stay on their medications, and stay out of trouble.

## Nevada Began the Nation's First . . .

- Juvenile Drug Court (Clark County)
- Family Drug Court (Washoe County)
- Early Release Prison Re-Entry Drug Courts (Clark and Washoe Counties)
- Child Support Drug Court (Clark County)
- Multi-County Rural Drug Court (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties)



Justice Adolphus Leigh Fitzgerald  
(1901-07)



# The Work of the State Courts

## Court Technology

**Nevada's courts** are being required to do more despite fewer available resources because of hard economic times in many rural areas and the pressures of growth in urban centers. The solution has been the use of progressive and innovative technology systems — some of which have attracted national attention.

The courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) were not content to simply do the minimum and just keep up with the workload. The AOC understood that computers could not only make the courts' daily operations more efficient, but they could provide a dramatic improvement in communication. Nevada covers more than 100,000 square miles and vast

distances separate many courts. Until the last few years, when the Supreme Court embraced its role as the administrative head of the judiciary, the trial courts were responsible for their own technology. Although courts are still responsible for their own technology, AOC now significantly helps the courts meet their information technology needs.

### Nevada Rural Courts' System

With most of Nevada's trial courts located in rural areas, it became evident during the past few years that these courts cannot support the use of technology as efficiently as independent entities. These courts usually consist of one or two judges with few staff, limited technical support and marginal financial resources. Yet the courts recognize the increasing need to interact electronically with other courts and share information with law enforcement and other criminal justice entities.

To assist the rural courts, the AOC launched the Nevada Rural Courts' System (NRCS), which is making available a user-friendly case management system that is supported centrally by the AOC information technology professionals. NRCS continued to expand during fiscal year 2004 toward a goal of having the majority of rural courts on-line. The result should be the efficient collection, storage, management, and use of information within the judiciary.

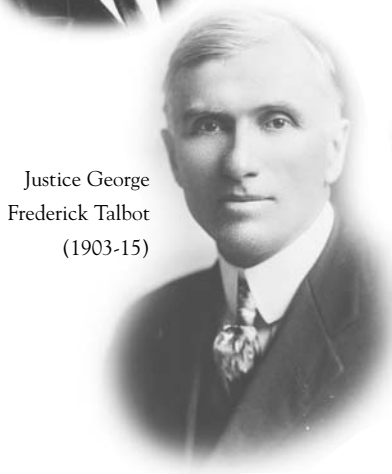
### Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System

An inherent problem in information technology has been that different computer systems with differing software could not communicate. Sharing information was difficult, if not impossible. Law enforcement computers could not talk to the courts' computers, and the courts' computers could not talk to the computers of the prosecutors, public defenders, or the state criminal history repository and Department of Motor Vehicles. The public employees at these agencies had to take the labor-intensive step of manually re-keying necessary information.

The Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MC-IJIS) project was begun to address the need to share information electronically. In short, it is an innovative electronic data exchange system developed by the AOC information technology professionals that lets different governmental and court computers talk to each other. At the same time, each participating entity maintains control of its information and decides what data to share and with



Justice Thomas  
Van Camp Julien  
(1902-03)



Justice George  
Frederick Talbot  
(1903-15)



Justice Frank  
Herbert Norcross  
(1905-17)

whom. The result is improved efficiency, reduced mistakes from re-keying data, and a savings of taxpayer dollars.

In 2002, the then-fledgling MC-IJIS project was first showcased nationally at the National Criminal Justice Integration Symposium in Washington, D.C., sponsored by SEARCH and the Bureau of Criminal Justice. In the fall of 2003, a matured and functioning MC-IJIS project so impressed the participants at the 2003 Court Technology Conference in Kansas City, Mo., that an encore performance was requested at the SEARCH symposium in Washington, D.C., in March 2004.

In Nevada, MC-IJIS is operating in several courts and more are waiting to be added. Clark and Washoe Counties are both considering implementing MC-IJIS and eventually, it is expected that the MC-IJIS project will go statewide.

## Nevada Offense Code Redevelopment

For the Nevada Judiciary to efficiently share case information with other criminal justice entities, the courts must take the next step beyond having the ability for computers to talk to each other. The need also exists for a logical, easy to use and maintain, up-to-date structure that standardizes the charges so the information can be shared from arrest to adjudication.

During fiscal year 2004, the Judicial Branch Technology Section launched the Nevada Offense Code (NOC) Redevelopment Project in conjunction with the Nevada Department of Public

Safety, Criminal History Repository. More than 70 people volunteered their time to serve on various committees that eventually will update the table structure for use by all justice agencies.

## Supreme Court Website

Nevada was perhaps the last state to launch a judicial website when a basic site was begun in early 2003. During fiscal year 2004, a re-design of the website was completed that made it easier to use and provided more accessibility. The website, at [www.nvsupremecourt.us](http://www.nvsupremecourt.us), has become an increasingly popular site for the legal community, students, and those with an interest in the Nevada Supreme Court and its cases.

## Supreme Court Technology

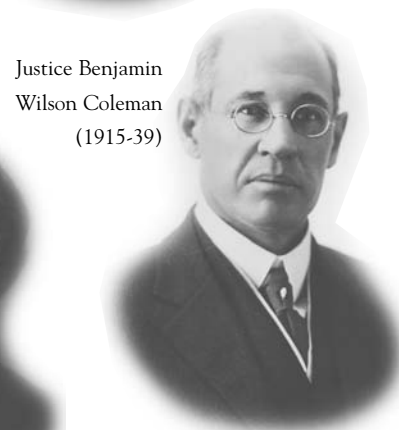
The work of the Nevada Supreme Court, more than any other court in the state, is based on documents. Most are provided by litigants with the rest being generated by the Supreme Court and its staff. Because the management of court documents has always been a time intensive task, the Supreme Court turned to technology as a way of making the process more efficient. During fiscal year 2004, the Court began implementing a computerized system to electronically manage documents, using

workflow to automate what had been manual processes. A bonus is that the system eventually will provide public access to non-sensitive documents via the Supreme Court website.

During fiscal year 2004, the Supreme Court also began exploring systems that would allow court cases to be filed electronically. Under the system, attorneys would file their documents via the Internet and the District Court record would be transmitted electronically to the Supreme Court Clerk's Office.



Justice James G. Sweeney  
(1907-13)



Justice Benjamin  
Wilson Coleman  
(1915-39)



Justice Patrick Anthony McCarran  
(1913-19)



# The Work of the State Courts

## SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

### Jury Improvement Commission

**During fiscal year 2004**, the Nevada Supreme Court continued the groundbreaking work of its Jury Improvement Commission that explored ways to ensure jurors can get all the information they need and help make jury service a more rewarding experience.

The Commission, which already prompted legislation to increase juror fees from \$15 to \$40 per day, established the Jury Improvement Implementation Committee to determine how best to

make the Commission's recommendations a reality. The Committee launched pilot programs to test ways of letting jurors have a more active role in trials — such as allowing them to ask questions of witnesses during trial, and to have notebooks containing pertinent exhibits and jury instructions. The Committee also looked into having competing expert witnesses in trials testify one after the other to make the information more meaningful for jurors.

These pilot programs were conducted not only in Nevada's urban courts, but also in the rural District Courts in Elko and Ely.

The Committee began drafting new rules to make recommendations of the Commission a reality. Some rule changes likely will address the way cases are processed to promote the resolution of disputes and legal issues before trial, reducing the impact on prospective jurors and the courts.

The Jury Improvement Commission was established in September 2001 and spent more than a year reaching its conclusions in a 92-page report that is available on the Nevada Supreme Court website at [www.nvsupremecourt.us](http://www.nvsupremecourt.us)

While the Commission has completed its report, its spirit will continue well into the future. One of the recommendations the Committee is addressing involves juror questionnaires so the courts can continue receiving input from those called to jury duty and, as a result, continue exploring better ways to conduct jury trials.

Justice John  
Adams Sanders  
(1917-35)



Justice Edward Augustus Ducker  
(1919-46)



Justice Errol James Livingston Taber  
(1935-47)



# Court Interpreter Certification Program

**Providing equal access** to justice for those who do not speak English has been a problem for many courts in Nevada that are faced with burgeoning populations of non-English speaking individuals, Hispanics in particular. Qualified interpreters have been in short supply across the state, especially in rural areas. Judges have relied on uncertified employees or bilingual residents to interpret court proceedings and are always concerned whether court sessions are properly interpreted.

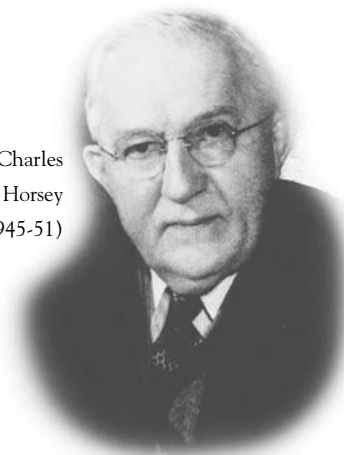
Two years ago, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) began a court interpreter certification program to help ensure that interpreters are measurably competent and certified to provide needed services in our courts. Nevada joined the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, which provides standard testing instruments in 10 languages, interpreter rating services, and training for those who administer the certification program.

Since then, workshops have been conducted for those with ambition to serve as interpreters, followed by written and oral testing. The testing provides an objective assessment of language ability and interpretation skills. Certification is awarded once all requirements are met. The highly successful program continues to graduate certified interpreters — some who are current employees or individuals who will expand the pool of interpreters for Nevada's courts.

During fiscal year 2004, the AOC began working with educational institutions to develop workshops that will expand the opportunity for court interpreter certification to students already possessing bilingual skills. The AOC also worked to develop a continuing education policy for certified interpreters to ensure their continued expertise.

These are examples of the AOC's commitment to meet the judiciary's current and future needs for qualified interpreters.

Justice Charles  
Lee Horsey  
(1945-51)



Justice Edgar Eather  
(1946-58)



Justice William Edwin Orr  
(1939-45)





# The Work of the State Courts

## Judicial Education

**Protecting the rights** of free citizens requires an independent and competent judiciary.

In the quest for judicial competence, the Nevada Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts have provided a wide array of resources for judicial education. The goal is to ensure that judges are knowledgeable and skilled in the study and development of the law and trained in the application of legal principles and the art of judging. Court staffs also require education and training to help them assist judges in carrying out

judicial responsibilities and to provide accurate and timely services to the public.

The mission of the Judicial Education Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts is to promote the competency and professionalism of the judiciary through a comprehensive system of continuing education and training.

The Division's budget comes from administrative assessments collected by the courts on misdemeanor criminal charges and traffic offenses. The Division provided training for well over three-quarters of all Nevada judges and court executives covering a wide range of topics. Many were involved in multiple training sessions. In addition, more than 50 judges and court staff were sent to

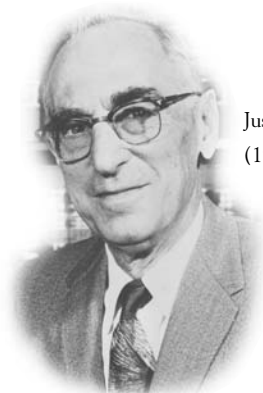
conferences and training programs offered by other educational institutions. Many of these attended the statutorily mandated and Supreme Court-ordered courses for new judges at the National Judicial College and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in Reno.

Educational topics during fiscal year 2004 included technology, criminal evidence, domestic violence issues, traffic laws, small claims cases, evictions, harassment and stalking cases, abuse of the elderly, recent U.S. Supreme Court and Nevada Supreme Court opinions, new state legislation, the ever expanding Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts, and a variety of other legal and administrative matters affecting the courts.

The highlight of the year was the Judicial Leadership Summit, a conference held every 4 years that brings together all levels of Nevada's judiciary at one location to share information and explore issues of mutual concern.

Family law matters were addressed, as they are every year, during the highly acclaimed Family Jurisdiction Judges Seminar in Ely.

Nevada's courts clearly will continue to face an ever-expanding range of legal and social issues. The Judicial Education Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts will continue to work to anticipate and plan for the educational needs of the judiciary's most valuable resource — its judges and their staffs.



Justice Milton Benjamin Badt  
(1947-66)



Justice Charles M. Merrill  
(1951-59)



Justice Frank McNamee  
(1958-65)

# Judicial Education — Lake Tahoe Summit

## Judicial Leadership Summit 2004

**For new judges,** taking the bench is only the starting point in their judicial careers. The education and training provided through the Judicial Education Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts hones the judges' judicial skills and provides a template for equal justice throughout Nevada's courts. Ensuring equal justice comes, in part, from Nevada Supreme Court opinions and court rules, but also requires that judges interact and share their experiences so a common goal is achieved.

Every 4 years, the Supreme Court of Nevada asks judges at all levels, along with commissioners, referees, masters, court executives and clerks, to gather together and reflect on the judiciary's tasks and exchange views on solutions to common problems. **Judicial Leadership Summit 2004**, held at Lake Tahoe in May, addressed **The Role of the Judge in the 21st Century**.

Summit 2004 reminded judges at all levels of the importance of their decisions and the ramifications of their actions. Judges explored the changing roles of the courts and how society has been looking to the judiciary to resolve traditionally social problems through special programs such as the highly successful Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts. The Summit also provided some nuts and bolts assistance to judges with specific problems along with guidance from the Supreme Court justices on current court issues.



The first Judicial Leadership Summit was held at Lake Tahoe in 2000 — bringing together for the first time every level of the judiciary to communicate their accomplishments and mutual concerns. The event was attended by 103 of the state's judges. The 2004 Summit saw 123 judges attending, along with 31 masters and court administrators.

Chief Justice Miriam Shearing observed that during the past 4 years the judiciary has become a much more cohesive entity, working toward common goals and providing more consistent justice for Nevada's citizens due, in part, to judicial education programs and the Judicial Leadership Summits.

## Summit 2004 Highlights

- University of Southern California Professor Erwin Chemerinsky's keynote address: "The Role of the Judiciary in the 21st Century"
- Nuremberg and the Holocaust, "Law and Justice in a Time of Retribution," by the Honorable Norbert Ehrenfreund and Lou Dunst
- "Making the Record, the Trial Judge as Eyes and Ears in the Appellate Process"
- "Living Voices — the Internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II"
- "Perception, Persuasion and Provocation, Scrutiny of the Judiciary"
- "The Judge as Leader: Courts and Community Collaboration" about Mental Health Courts
- "Mental Illness: Understanding the Problems, Working the System"
- "State Prisoner Civil Litigation"



THE NEVADA JUDICIARY  
CASELOAD STATISTICS REPORT





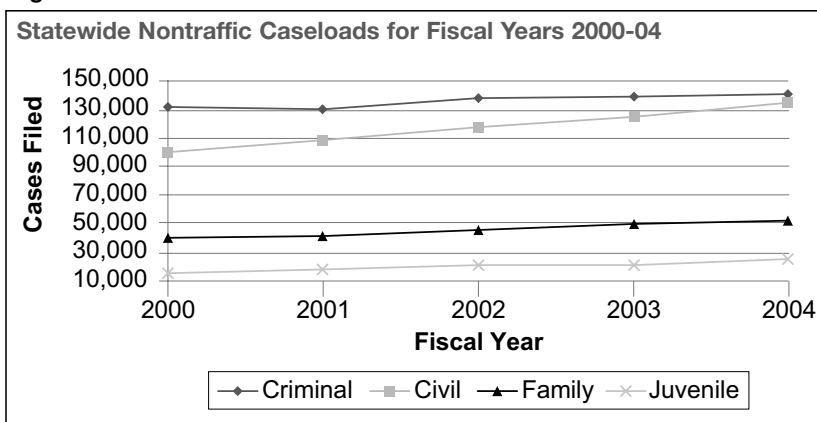
# Uniform System for Judicial Records

**The Uniform System** for Judicial Records (USJR) was established in June 1999 by Supreme Court order. USJR requires trial courts to submit information defined in the Nevada USJR Court Statistical Reporting Model (USJR Model) to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) monthly. The information in the USJR Model is divided into four case categories: criminal, civil, family, and juvenile. In fiscal year 2004 (July 1, 2003 — June 30, 2004), two types of statistics were collected in each of these categories. The two types are cases filed (the number and type of cases opened) and dispositions (the number and type of cases adjudicated or closed). The caseload and dispositions for each case category have been defined and consistently categorized for every court.

As technology and resources allow, future phases of USJR will be defined and data will be collected. The next phase will include events in court case processing and the final phase will be the status of pending cases.

This annual report provides caseload inventory (filing) and disposition statistics for the Supreme Court and all 85 trial courts in the state — 17 District Courts, 50 Justice Courts, and 18 Municipal Courts. Where court information varies from the requirements or is incomplete, explanatory footnotes are provided.

**Figure 1.**



Justice Miles N. Pike  
(1959-61)



Justice Gordon R. Thompson  
(1961-77)



*The Ormsby County courthouse, built in 1897, is currently being utilized by the Nevada State Attorney General's office.*

*The Storey County courthouse, built in 1875, is a classic example of architecture from the state's early days.*



Statewide, the total non-traffic caseload increased overall in District and Justice Courts although it varied among individual courts with some increasing and some decreasing. This overall increase correlates to the continuing increase in population; interestingly, the civil caseload is increasing at a greater rate and almost matches the criminal caseload with each exceeding 145,000 cases filed. The trends in each case type, including civil, for the last 5 years can be seen in Figure 1.

For District Courts, Table 1 shows an 8 percent increase in overall non-traffic caseload. Juvenile and criminal caseloads saw the largest increase in District Court at about 21 and 10 percent, respectively. The juvenile increase, however, may be explained by improved reporting in at least one county, which would cause an increase in the reported caseload.

For Justice Courts, Table 1 shows an increase in criminal and civil caseloads. Statewide Justice Court non-traffic filings increased 6 percent from last year. Traffic and parking filings decreased about 5 percent.

For Municipal Courts, Table 1 shows a slight decrease in criminal non-traffic case filings (little more than 1 percent). Traffic and parking filings decreased as well (about 2 percent). As these courts filings are dependant on local law enforcement, the totals are greatly influenced by the number of law enforcement positions filled or vacant. Civil filings are rare in Municipal Courts and are usually for the recovery of unpaid city utility bills.

**Table 1.**

Reported Total Nevada Statewide Trial Court Caseload, Fiscal Years 2000-04							
Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal <sup>1</sup>	Civil <sup>2</sup>	Family <sup>2</sup>	Juvenile	Total Non-traffic caseload	Traffic and parking <sup>3</sup>
District	2004	13,203	29,011	54,951	26,968	124,133	6,976
	2003	12,001	28,077	52,258	22,204	114,540	5,997
	2002	12,191	25,303 <i>r</i>	47,676	22,148	107,318 <i>r</i>	5,425
	2001	11,782	23,383	42,989	18,873 <i>r</i>	97,027 <i>r</i>	4,134 <i>r</i>
	2000	11,477	23,511	41,676	15,967 <i>r</i>	92,631 <i>r</i>	2,650 <i>r</i>
Justice	2004	77,658	116,551	NJ	NJ	194,209	394,962
	2003	76,078	106,593	NJ	NJ	182,671	416,505
	2002	76,928 <i>r</i>	101,204	NJ	NJ	178,132 <i>r</i>	398,679 <i>r</i>
	2001	74,735 <i>r</i>	93,342	NJ	NJ	168,077 <i>r</i>	401,937 <i>r</i>
	2000	73,881 <i>r</i>	83,968	NJ	NJ	157,849 <i>r</i>	409,829 <i>r</i>
Municipal	2004	58,235	20	NJ	NJ	58,255	236,126
	2003	59,074 <i>r</i>	3	NJ	NJ	59,077 <i>r</i>	240,554
	2002	56,796 <i>r</i>	125	NJ	NJ	56,921 <i>r</i>	239,394
	2001	50,925 <i>r</i>	NF	NJ	NJ	50,925 <i>r</i>	232,468 <i>r</i>
	2000	53,735 <i>r</i>	NF	NJ	NJ	53,735 <i>r</i>	253,078
TOTAL	2004	149,096	145,582	54,951	26,968	376,597	638,064
	2003	147,153 <i>r</i>	134,673	52,258	22,204	356,288 <i>r</i>	663,056 <i>r</i>
	2002	145,915 <i>r</i>	126,632 <i>r</i>	47,676	22,148	342,371 <i>r</i>	643,498 <i>r</i>
	2001	137,442 <i>r</i>	116,725	42,989	18,873 <i>r</i>	316,029 <i>r</i>	638,539 <i>r</i>
	2000	139,093 <i>r</i>	107,479	41,676	15,967 <i>r</i>	304,215 <i>r</i>	665,557 <i>r</i>
NF	No filings.						
NJ	Not within court jurisdiction.						
<i>r</i>	Data totals revised from initial publication most often by courts improving their data collection process.						
1	Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor filings and are counted by defendants.						
2	Reopened cases are included in totals. Numbers in these columns will be different from previous annual reports.						
3	Traffic and parking filings are counted by charges, not defendants. Not all courts process parking violations. District Court numbers are juvenile traffic.						
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.							



# Supreme Court

**The Nevada Supreme Court** is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. Nevada does not have an intermediate appellate court. The main constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals from the decisions of the District Courts. As the only appellate court, the Supreme Court does not have discretionary review and must consider all cases filed. The Supreme Court does not conduct any fact-finding trials, but rather determines whether procedural or legal errors were made in the rendering of lower court decisions.

As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 1,852 filings during the last fiscal year, very similar to the year before. The Justices disposed of 1,750 cases, fewer than the year before.

The breakdown of appeals from District Court cases by judicial district is provided in Table 3. As expected, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) recorded the most appeals, increasing by 60 cases (almost 4 percent of the total caseload of District Court appeals) from last fiscal year. The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) recorded the second highest number of appeals, although their total decreased by 49 cases (3 percent of the total caseload) from last year.

**Table 2.**

**Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2000-04**

	Fiscal Year 2000	Fiscal Year 2001	Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004
<b>Cases Filed</b>					
Bar Matters	23	35	29	29	50
Appeals	1,661	1,474	1,478	1,519	1,541
Original Proceedings	240	231	226	282	248
Other	6	2	4	1	7
Reinstated	10	18	15	10	6
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>1,852</b>
<b>Cases Disposed</b>					
By Opinions	111	112	81	87	83
By Order	1,821	1,896	1,825	1,802	1,667
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>1,750</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>1,528</b>
<b>Number of Opinions Written*</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>

\* Includes opinions that do not dispose of cases.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

**Table 3.**

**Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2000-04**

Fiscal Year	Judicial Districts										Total
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth		
Civil Appeals Filed											
2004	47 6%	140 18%	12 2%	8 1%	13 2%	8 1%	19 2%	530 68%	8 1%	785 100%	
2003	28 4%	150 21%	16 2%	9 1%	10 1%	4 1%	10 1%	480 66%	15 2%	722 100%	
2002	43 6%	132 19%	11 2%	9 1%	10 1%	15 2%	5 1%	465 66%	11 2%	701 100%	
2001	23 3%	125 19%	15 2%	14 2%	12 2%	11 2%	10 1%	452 67%	9 1%	671 100%	
2000	34 4%	126 16%	14 2%	11 1%	6 1%	8 1%	7 1%	590 73%	13 2%	809 100%	
Criminal Appeals Filed											
2004	14 2%	167 22%	12 2%	24 3%	10 1%	16 2%	22 3%	488 65%	3 < 1%	756 100%	
2003	13 2%	206 26%	18 2%	29 4%	17 2%	13 2%	17 2%	478 60%	6 < 1%	797 100%	
2002	28 4%	245 32%	18 2%	26 3%	21 3%	20 3%	15 2%	396 51%	8 < 1%	777 100%	
2001	30 4%	244 30%	30 4%	22 3%	11 1%	27 3%	16 2%	419 52%	4 < 1%	803 100%	
2000	42 5%	226 27%	29 3%	29 3%	26 3%	25 3%	16 2%	451 53%	8 < 1%	852 100%	
Total Appeals Filed											
2004	61 4%	307 20%	24 2%	32 2%	23 1%	24 2%	41 3%	1,018 66%	11 1%	1,541 100%	
2003	41 3%	356 23%	34 2%	38 3%	27 2%	17 1%	27 2%	958 63%	21 1%	1,519 100%	
2002	71 5%	377 26%	29 2%	35 2%	31 2%	35 2%	20 1%	861 58%	19 1%	1,478 100%	
2001	53 4%	369 25%	45 3%	36 2%	23 2%	38 3%	26 2%	871 59%	13 1%	1,474 100%	
2000	67 5%	352 21%	43 3%	40 2%	32 2%	33 2%	23 1%	1,041 63%	21 1%	1,661 100%	

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

## Appellate Court Comparisons

In contrast to the caseload of appellate courts nationwide, which experienced an overall 9 percent increase during 2002, the Nevada Supreme Court experienced a slight decrease from the previous year. The 2002 caseload numbers published by the National Center for State Courts<sup>1,2</sup> indicate that in states without an intermediate appellate court, the Nevada Supreme Court was ranked sixth. The District of Columbia is first with 266 appeals per 100,000 persons, then West Virginia with 147, Delaware with 89, Montana with 88, Vermont with 86, and then Nevada with 79. If the discretionary appeals were removed from consideration and only those appeals granted were counted, Nevada is ranked

fourth at 79 appeals per 100,000 persons. The District of Columbia is first with 257, Delaware second with 89, and Vermont third with 83.

A comparison of caseload and related information for selected courts with some similarities<sup>3</sup> to Nevada is provided in Table 4. Information about some states with intermediate appellate courts is included also. Nevada has more filings per justice (246) than most other appellate courts according to data published by the National Center for State Courts.<sup>1,2</sup> Compared with the two other states in Table 4 without intermediate appellate courts, Nevada has triple the filings per justice.

**Table 4.**

**Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected Appellate Courts with and without Intermediate Appellate Courts.  
All data from National Center for State Courts for 2002**

	Nevada	Montana	Maine	Arizona	Oregon	New Mexico	Alaska	Arkansas
Population rank	36	45	41	19	28	37	48	34
<b>Intermediate Appellate Court</b>								
Justices				22	10	10	3	12
En banc or panels				Panels	Both	Panels of 3	En Banc	Both
Cases filed & granted*				3,608	3,277	781	286	1,345
Cases per justice				164	328	78	95	112
<b>Supreme Court</b>								
Justices	7	7	7	5	7	5	5	7
En banc or panels	Both	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc	Panels of 3	En Banc	En Banc
Cases filed & granted*	1,723	584	560	177	235	59	258	320
Cases per justice	246	83	80	35	34	12	52	46

\* This number includes all cases heard by the court. For states with discretionary petitions, only the petitions granted are included.

<sup>1</sup> Ostrom, B.J., Kauder, N.B., Lafountain, R.C., Schauffler, R.Y., and Strickland, S.M., eds., 2004, *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2003, A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project*: National Center for State Courts, p. 63-73.

<sup>2</sup> Strickland, S.M., comp., 2004, *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2003*: National Center for State Courts, 218 p.

<sup>3</sup> The States were selected because of their population ranking (Maine, New Mexico, Arkansas), their regional location (Montana, Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico, Alaska) and/or they had five or seven justices in their Supreme Court (all) without regard to how many justices were in the Intermediate Appellate Court.



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## District Courts

**The District Courts** have general jurisdiction. Their jurisdiction is over all felony and gross misdemeanor cases, which are considered together as criminal cases, and civil cases where the amount in dispute exceeds \$7,500.<sup>4</sup> They also have jurisdiction for all family and juvenile cases. Some District Courts use Juvenile Masters who hear traffic and other juvenile cases.

The 17 counties of Nevada are divided into 9 Judicial Districts although each county staffs and maintains a District Court. The sparse populations of rural Nevada have necessitated that five of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties (see page 12). Judges in these rural Judicial Districts must travel within the multiple counties to hear cases on a regular basis. District Judges have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state, although they are elected within the Judicial District they generally serve.

## Statistical Summary

District Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 5. Summary disposition information is included in Table 6. This is the fifth year of statistics for the courts.

The distribution of case types within the District Courts is shown in Figure 2. Family cases make up the largest percentage of the court caseload at 44 percent, civil and juvenile (non-traffic) cases are similar at 23 and 22 percent, and criminal is the smallest at 11 percent.

Statewide, the District Court criminal caseload for fiscal year 2004 increased about 10 percent from the previous year (see Table 5). Clark County increased the most by more than 1,000 cases (almost 15 percent); however, the smaller population

**Table 5.**

**Summary of District Court Cases filed, Fiscal Years 2003-04**

Court	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Family Cases Filed		Juvenile Non-Traffic Cases Filed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Filed		Juvenile Traffic Violations	
	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003
<b>First Judicial District</b>												
Carson City District Court	302	328	683	675	792	897	1,153	1,066	2,930	2,966	1,293	1,063
Storey County District Court	5	20	21	29	33	81	28	29	87	159	23	23
<b>Second Judicial District</b>												
Washoe County District Court	3,059	3,033	4,087	4,397	10,146	9,862	4,772	5,199	22,064	22,491	NR	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>												
Churchill County District Court	169	179	137	114	542	530	1,247	1,100	2,095	1,923	341	229
Lyon County District Court	165	169	285	240	464	480	991	844	1,905	1,733	1,485	1,225
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>												
Elko County District Court	251	202	496	480	857	846	358	512	1,962	2,040	455	807
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>												
Esmeralda County District Court	15	9	8	17	5	10	2	1	30	37	22	18
Mineral County District Court	4	31	1	37	30	97	14	53	49	218	5	15
Nye County District Court	284	254	407	287	928	1,013	899	848	2,518	2,402	281	233
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>												
Humboldt County District Court	136	109	119	115	237	297	179	172	671	693	NR	NR
Lander County District Court	11	22	26	39	55	58	106	94	198	213	137	124
Pershing County District Court	64	45	57	70	85	85	130	114	336	314	11	27
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>												
Eureka County District Court	13	17	16	28	2	9	24	4	55	58	(a)	(a)
Lincoln County District Court	43	26	28	40	35	38	82	52	188	156	(a)	(a)
White Pine County District Court	90	78	91	100	112	133	110	91	403	402	(a)	(a)
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>												
Clark County District Court	8,454	7,356	22,149	20,999	39,771	37,085	16,504	11,696	86,878	77,136	2,465	1,760
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>												
Douglas County District Court	138	123	400	410	857	737	369	329	1,764	1,599	458	473
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,203</b>	<b>12,001</b>	<b>29,011</b>	<b>28,077</b>	<b>54,951</b>	<b>52,258</b>	<b>26,968</b>	<b>22,204</b>	<b>124,133</b>	<b>114,540</b>	<b>6,976</b>	<b>5,997</b>

NR Not reported.

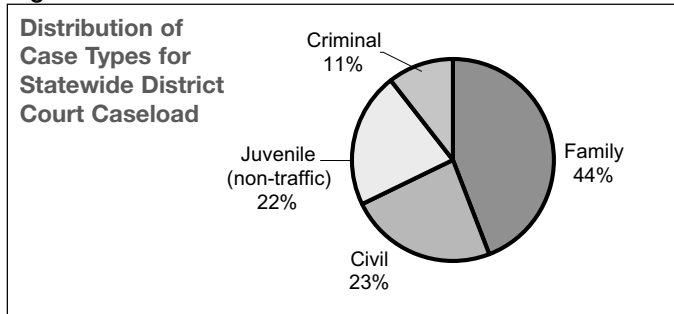
*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

*a* Juvenile traffic violations handled by Justice Courts.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

<sup>4</sup> The 2003 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 100, which increases the amount of civil disputes to be heard in Justice Courts to \$10,000 effective January 2005. This change similarly affects District Court cases.

**Figure 2.**



District Courts such as Lincoln and Pershing Counties increased the largest percentage, 65 and 42 percent, respectively.

The civil caseload increased more than 3 percent statewide. For the counties with larger populations, the civil caseload in Washoe County decreased 7 percent and Clark County increased 5 percent. Larger caseload increases in the counties with smaller populations included Nye County with almost 42 percent and Churchill County with 20 percent.

Family-related cases are handled only at the District Court level. The statewide total caseload for the fiscal year saw a 5 percent increase over last year. Caseloads in many rural courts declined while the urban courts increased: Washoe County almost 3 percent and Clark County more than 7 percent.

Juvenile case filings reported by District Courts for fiscal year 2004 had the most increase from the previous year of the four case types at 21 percent. Juvenile traffic violations are separated from other juvenile cases, especially at the District Court level, in part because procedures among the judicial districts vary. The largest increase appears to be in Clark County (41 percent); however, the staff in Clark County are now reporting case types they were not including previously. The true increase is not determinable.

Comparing the 2003 caseloads of general jurisdiction courts of Nevada to those of the surrounding eight western states highlights some interesting points (see Table 7). Nevada has the

**Table 6.**

**Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2003-04**

Court	Criminal Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-Traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Disposed		Juvenile Traffic Violations	
	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003
<b>First Judicial District</b>												
Carson City District Court	272	330	432	424	717	796	302	253	1,723	1,803	1,320	1,015
Storey County District Court	7	9	0	14	16	57	12	10	35	90	23	24
<b>Second Judicial District</b>												
Washoe County District Court	2,783	2,659	3,088	2,971	9,211	9,837	3,167	2,142	18,249	17,609	NR	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>												
Churchill County District Court	131	125	90	103	494	565	392	291	1,107	1,084	313	239
Lyon County District Court	145	170	73	73	162	166	581	438	961	847	1,314	497
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>												
Elko County District Court	261	274	174	169	691	739	129	248	1,255	1,430	428	455
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>												
Esmeralda County District Court	24	6	20	7	5	2	1	0	50	15	17	2
Mineral County District Court	8	30	5	17	17	38	10	61	40	146	1	13
Nye County District Court	207	233	191	152	817	732	537	521	1,752	1,638	343	327
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>												
Humboldt County District Court	110	109	41	36	184	214	42	21	377	380	NR	NR
Lander County District Court	22	17	17	22	55	43	115	75	209	157	136	85
Pershing County District Court	57	47	31	32	138	133	71	63	297	275	11	24
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>												
Eureka County District Court	11	7	1	1	2	1	2	1	16	10	(a)	(a)
Lincoln County District Court	33	19	23	28	28	29	66	29	150	105	(a)	(a)
White Pine County District Court	43	43	26	2	158	143	61	0	288	188	(a)	(a)
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>												
Clark County District Court	10,848	14,859	22,676	18,438	34,760	37,275	8,506	7,492	76,790	78,064	NR	NR
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>												
Douglas County District Court	114	107	281	282	774	656	231	253	1,400	1,298	443	473
<b>Total</b>	15,098	19,044	27,169	22,771	48,229	51,426	14,225	11,898	104,721	105,139	4,349	3,154

NR Not reported.

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

*a* Juvenile traffic violations handled by Justice Courts.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

**Table 7.**

**Comparison of Nevada District Courts with other Western States General Jurisdiction Courts. Data from National Center for State Courts, 2003**

State	General Jurisdiction Court	Judges per 100,000 population	Filings per judge	Filings per 100,000 population
Nevada	District	2.6	1,433	4,592
Alaska	Superior	5.3	455	2,790
Arizona	Superior	2.9	1,061	3,476
California	Superior	4.3	1,546	23,045
Hawaii	Circuit	3.9	686	3,762
Idaho	District	2.9	500	1,456
Oregon	Circuit	4.7	1,902	18,310
Washington	Superior	2.9	1,152	4,041

fewest number of Judges per 100,000 in population (2.6) among all western states. Nevada also ranks third in the categories of filings per Judge and filings per 100,000 population among these states.

Disposition information for District Courts is provided in Table 6. This is the fourth year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information, which is a difficult process for courts.

Most courts count manually, some courts had their case management systems modified during the year, and some courts were unable to provide accurate and complete information. As with many such projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

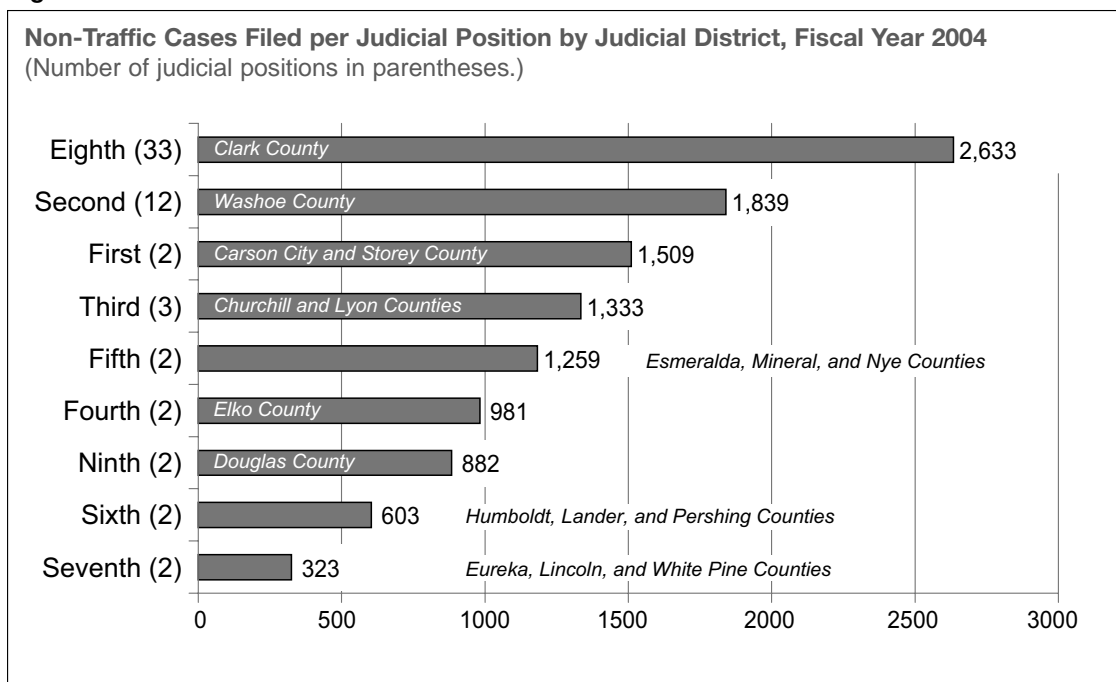
Total dispositions decreased slightly over the last year. The criminal and family case dispositions saw overall decreases while the civil and juvenile case dispositions saw overall increases statewide. Juvenile traffic dispositions increased 38 percent due, in part, to improved reporting by some District Courts.

Dividing the disposition numbers by the filing numbers and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. A clearance rate of 90 percent or higher is good. A clearance rate of more than 100 percent generally indicates the court purged old cases.

## Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for each Judicial District in Nevada for fiscal year 2004 is shown in Figure 3. In the judicial districts that contain more than one county (First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases for those counties are summed and divided by the number of Judges for each district.

**Figure 3.**



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 2,068.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.



To make the comparisons more consistent, juvenile traffic charges were removed from the totals used for calculating the cases filed per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. At the District Court level, Juvenile Masters or District Court Judges handle juvenile traffic cases and the cases may be counted at the District or Justice Court level depending on the processes within the judicial district.

As has been the case for the last few years, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) has the largest number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position at 2,633, an increase over last year (2,449). The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) was next with 1,839 cases filed per judicial position, a decrease from last fiscal year (1,956). The First Judicial District (Carson City and Storey County) follows with 1,509 cases per judicial position, which is down slightly from last fiscal year (1,563).

The statewide average number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts increased to 2,068, which is 144 cases per Judge higher than last fiscal year (1,924). Since the data collection began, this statewide average has increased every year but one — fiscal year 2001. That year, five new Judges had been added statewide.

District Court Judges with smaller caseloads assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county judicial districts, Judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. This travel time reduces the amount of time available to hear cases.

## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of quantifying the judicial assistance provided to the courts by Special Masters, Senior Judges, and visiting Judges to help dispose cases.

## Quasi-Judicial Assistance

The first step in quantifying this assistance was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These positions have limited authority and are accountable to an elected Judge; they cannot be considered equivalent to a full judicial position and, therefore, are called quasi-judicial positions.

Individuals in these positions, who help with the adjudication process and are appointed by the court, were identified and their time quantified. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent assistance provided during the year; a summary is provided in Table 8. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, and masters for alternative dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. The work of these quasi-judicial officials must be reviewed and approved by elected Judges. These positions are not included in the filings per judicial position chart.

Additionally, in a few districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh Judicial Districts, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for juvenile traffic cases.

**Table 8.**

### Estimated Full-time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2004

Court & County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
<b>First Judicial District</b>	1.0
Carson City	
Storey	
<b>Second Judicial District</b>	8.0
Washoe	
<b>Third Judicial District</b>	0.6
Churchill	
Lyon	
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>	1.0
Elko	
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	1.9
Esmeralda	
Mineral	
Nye	
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>	0.1
Humboldt	
Lander	
Pershing	
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	0.25
Eureka	
Lincoln	
White Pine	
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	11.15
Clark	
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>	0.6
Douglas	



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Senior Judge Program

Alternative methods used to provide intermittent judicial assistance to courts include the Senior Judge program and temporary assignment of District Court Judges. Supreme Court Rule 10 governs the Senior Judge program. Briefly, any former Supreme Court Justice or District Court Judge who qualifies for retirement and who was not removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in an election may apply to become a Senior Justice or Judge. The Senior Judges are eligible for temporary assignment by Supreme Court order to any state trial court at or below the level they previously served.

Information on Senior Judge assignments is provided in Table 9. Each order is counted as one assignment. Some orders may have been signed in previous fiscal years and the Senior Judge is still hearing motions in the case(s). Also, orders may contain multiple Judges, days, or cases depending on what type of request was received. Sometimes, Senior Judges are requested when a Judge retires or takes an extended leave, so that assignment would be for a period of time to hear whatever cases were on the calendar. Occasionally, Senior Judges are requested when a Judge is recused or is peremptorily challenged from a case. That assignment would be for a specific case only.

**Table 9.**

**Senior Judge Assignments for Fiscal Year 2004**

Requesting Judicial District	Senior Judge Assignments <sup>a</sup>	Total Days of Assignments Each Judicial District	Approximate Full-Time Equivalent	Number of Senior Judges Assigned <sup>a</sup>
First	4	9.62	0.05	3
Second	1	0	0	1
Third	1	0.8	<0.01	1
Fourth	1	0	0	2
Fifth	0	0	0	0
Sixth	0	0	0	0
Seventh	3	41.78	0.02	3
Eighth	26	237.54	1.13	6
Ninth	0	10.1	0.0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>299.84</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>16</b>

<sup>a</sup> Some orders may have been signed in previous fiscal years and the Senior Judge is still hearing motions in the case resulting in zero assignments for the fiscal year but days of assignments.

During fiscal year 2004, the judiciary had nine Senior Judges actively serving the District Courts. The combined efforts of these Judges provided assistance equivalent to about one and one-half full-time Judges for the State, not including more than 18 days of travel time associated with these assignments.

## Assistance by District Court Judges

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may assign District Court Judges to assist in other judicial districts according to Article 6, Section 19 of the Nevada Constitution.

Information on District Court Judge assistance is provided in Table 10. The assistance requested by each Judicial District is given as well as the assistance Judges in each judicial district provided to other judicial districts. Each order is counted as one assignment for assistance. However, each order may contain multiple Judges, days, or cases depending on what type of request for assistance was received. Sometimes, District Court Judge assignments are requested when a Judge retires or takes an extended leave, so that assignment would be for a period of time to hear whatever cases were on the calendar. Sometimes, District Court Judge assistance is requested when another District Court Judge is recused or is peremptorily challenged from a case. Such an assignment would be for one case only.

During fiscal year 2004, the District Courts had 15 individual Judges who filled requests for assistance.

**Table 10.**

**District Court Judge Assistance for Fiscal Year 2004**

Judicial District	Assistance Requested By District	Assistance Provided By District (number of orders)
First	8	5
Second	0	4
Third	1	10
Fourth	10	7
Fifth	2	7
Sixth	3	2
Seventh	17	8
Eighth	4	0
Ninth	4	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program began on July 1, 1992, after passage by the 1991 Legislature of Senate Bill 366. The legislation required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement the ADR Program. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. An Arbitration Commissioner administers the program in each judicial district.

Initially, the ADR Program focused on certain civil cases with probable jury award value of less than \$25,000. A subsequent revision increased the amount to \$40,000; however, the Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the lower amount.

## Caseload and Settlement Rate

The number of cases entering the arbitration program for fiscal year 2004 was lower for three of the four judicial districts than their respective long-term annual average program caseloads (sum of annual caseloads for the last 10 years divided by 10 for all but the First Judicial District, which only has 7 years data). Interestingly, the First Judicial District Court was the only one to have more cases entering the program this fiscal year than their long-term average. The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for each district program are provided in Table 11.

The settlement rate can vary greatly from one year to another within each district and can be affected by the increase or decrease in the number of arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff. The settlement rate is the number of cases settled or dismissed after entering the arbitration program compared with those cases requesting trials de novo (new, complete bench or jury trials).

The First, Second, and Ninth Judicial Districts had settlement rates that were lower during the fiscal year than the long-term averages of each of their programs. The Eighth Judicial District had a settlement rate that was higher during the fiscal year than the long-term average for their program.

The Second, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Districts collect fees (\$5 per case filing) for the program. All three have expenses that exceed the amount collected in filing fees. The First Judicial District does not collect fees. The judicial districts use the fees for the administration of the arbitration program, including staff and technology expenses.

All four judicial districts continue to find the program a successful alternative to regular trials. The program is well received by members of the bar, litigants, and public because cases in the program are processed expeditiously and at reduced expense.

## Specialty Court Programs

Specialty courts are judicial problem-solving processes designed to address the root causes that contribute to criminal involvement. Nevada has led the nation in the development of Drug Courts as an alternative way of returning productive members to society. Drug Courts have been proven highly

**Table 11.**

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2004

	First Judicial District		Second Judicial District		Eighth Judicial District**		Ninth Judicial District	
	Fiscal Year 2004	Long-Term Average (7 years)	Fiscal Year 2004	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2004	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2004	Long-Term Average (10 years)
Civil Caseload	704		4,087		22,149		400	
Cases Entered *	285	238	537	575	3,679	3,935	121	132
Cases Removed	47	56	71	58	283	291	30	25
Cases Settled or Dismissed	180	140	470	400	510	1,602	22	44
Settlement Rate	90%	92%	79%	85%	63%	62%	76%	90%
Trials De Novo requested	19	11	124	72	303	971	7	5
Trials De Novo request rate	10%	8%	21%	15%	37%	38%	24%	10%

\* First, Second, and Eighth Judicial Districts have a \$40,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request to be removed.

\*\* The case management system used by the Eighth Judicial District does not capture snap shots of information required for these calculations. Instead, if a case is filed in 2000 and settled in 2004, it counts as settled in 2000. Whenever possible the updated information is included in the calculations; however, the actual settlement rate for the Eighth Judicial District may be slightly higher owing to some cases being settled after many years.



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

effective with defendants whose drug use or abuse brought them in contact with the criminal justice system. Nevada has several Drug Courts at the District Court level.

The Adult Criminal Drug Court is the most common. Participants are part of the criminal justice system and enrolled in the program as a part of their sentence and rehabilitation. Generally, Adult Diversion Drug Court offers a slightly less intensive treatment program since most of the Diversion Court clients are working and have a less severe drug or alcohol problem. Prison Re-entry Drug Courts give prison inmates with drug problems an opportunity to get out of prison a year or two early through this program. Family, Dependency, and Child Support Drug Courts all deal with domestic situations, such as an failure to pay ordered child support, that are worsened by those using illegal drugs. Juvenile Drug Courts are for youth that find themselves in the criminal justice system with drug use as part of the problem.

The development of Mental Health Courts emerged from the success of the Drug Court model. A large percentage of people in jail with a substance abuse problem also have a co-occurring disorder of mental illness. Nationally, the crisis in mental health care may be traced to the long-term effects of deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and a lack of a corresponding increase in community-based mental health care.

In addition to the benefits provided the defendants, the counties and taxpayers receive primary benefits of reduced number of people in the prisons and increased number of productive members in society.

During the 2003 Legislature, AB29 was passed that added a \$7 assessment to misdemeanor charges when defendants are found guilty in Justice and Municipal Courts to provide additional funding for specialty courts throughout the state. All Drug Courts are eligible for money through this source. Other specialty courts that are eligible for this additional funding include Alcohol and Mental Health Courts.

The information provided below is tracked by the individual specialty court staff. No standards have been defined and applied statewide. For example, some Districts provide the number of participants for the year and some provide the number of new admissions. As these have slightly different connotations, care should be taken in comparisons among the programs.

## First, Third, & Ninth Judicial Districts

The Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program began in fiscal year 2002, and encompasses the First, Third, and Ninth Judicial Districts and Mineral County in the Fifth Judicial District. The adult-only program includes cases from the District Courts in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties. Third Judicial District Court Judge Archie Blake is the primary administrator of the program. Other Third Judicial District Court Judges (from Lyon and Churchill Counties) fill in as needed.

One obvious difference between the Regional Drug Court and those in Clark and Washoe Counties is that the presiding Judge must travel to hear the cases in the other participating judicial districts. In fact, Judge Blake agreed to include Hawthorne (Mineral County) in the Western Region Drug Court to maximize the judicial resources available to serve the area. Most of the individual counties within the Western Region Drug Court area also have some separate form of Juvenile Drug Court.

The Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program had 46 graduates during the fiscal year. Additionally, the Drug Court had eight participants who delivered drug-free babies during the fiscal year.

**Western Nevada Drug Court, Fiscal Year 2004**

<b>Court &amp; County</b>	<b>New Admissions</b>	<b>Active Cases at Year End</b>
First Judicial District	37	47
Carson City		
Storey		
Third Judicial District		
Churchill	25	25
Lyon	32	29
Fifth Judicial District		
Mineral	11	12
Ninth Judicial District		
Douglas	32	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>145</b>

## Second Judicial District

The Washoe County Drug Court program has been in operation since 1994. Judge Peter Breen and Judge Charles M. McGee handle the duties for Adult and Family Drug Courts, respectively.

One indication of the success of the Washoe County District Court Drug Courts is that 33 babies were born drug-free to participants in all the programs during fiscal year 2004. Without this intervention, many or all of these babies would have been born with drugs in their systems with the associated drug-related developmental problems.

### Second Judicial District Drug Courts, Fiscal Year 2004

Type of Drug Court	New Participants	Graduates	Terminations
Adult criminal	202	158	82
Adult diversion	135	46	32
Prison Re-entry	41	26	7
Family	79	39	6
Juvenile	28	5	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>138</b>

Judge Peter Breen also manages the Mental Health Court for Washoe County, which began in November 2001. In addition to the defendants with felony and gross misdemeanor charges, the Mental Health Court also accepts those with misdemeanor charges. During fiscal year 2004, the Mental Health Court had 145 people enrolled, of which 14 graduated and 12 were terminated.

## Fifth Judicial District

The Fifth Judicial District Adult Drug Court program has been operating since April 2002. Judge Robert Lane presides over the Adult and Family Drug Court programs.

The Nye County Drug Court had one drug-free baby born to a participant in the program during 2004 and four babies born in 2003.

The Fifth Judicial District began operation of a Juvenile Drug Court in February 2004. Senior Justice of the Peace Margaret Whittaker presides over the Juvenile Drug Court under the direction of Judge Lane.

### Fifth Judicial District Drug Courts, Fiscal Year 2004

Type of Drug Court	New Participants	Graduates	Terminations
Adult criminal	20	6	4
Family	3	0	0
Juvenile	6	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

## Eighth Judicial District

Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Jack Lehman began the first Nevada Drug Court in Clark County, in 1992; that was the fifth Drug Court in the nation at that time. In December 2000, Judge Lehman implemented the nation's First Early Release Re-entry Drug Court in Clark County. Although Judge Lehman retired in January 2003 he returned to preside over the Adult Criminal and Prison Re-entry Drug Courts. Others who preside over Drug Courts include Judge William Voy, Juvenile Drug Court; Judge Doug Smith, Las Vegas Justice Court; and Judge Billy Moma, Laughlin Justice Court.

The Clark County District Court Drug Court program had 18 drug-free babies born to participants during fiscal year 2004. The District Court also received an award for the Prison Re-entry Drug Court from the National Association of Counties. The award is in recognition of innovative county government programs.

### Eighth Judicial District Drug Courts, Fiscal Year 2004

Type of Drug Court	New Admissions	Active Cases at Year End	Graduates	Terminations
Adult criminal	483	492	317	436
Prison Re-entry	33	33	23	7
Dependency	71	95	45	41
Child Support	8	30	5	11
Juvenile	99	160	42	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>543</b>
<b>Justice Courts</b>				
Las Vegas	86	94	44	16
Laughlin	17		(new program)	



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Justice Courts

**The Justice Courts** are limited jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload is restricted to particular types of cases or actions as prescribed by the Nevada Revised Statutes. Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They hear misdemeanor non-traffic cases as well as general civil cases (amounts up to \$7,500<sup>5</sup>), small claims (up to \$5,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary protective orders (domestic violence<sup>6</sup> or stalking and harassment). They also hear traffic and, in some communities, parking cases, which are counted by charge.

The Justices of the Peace are elected within the townships they serve (see p. 8). They may hear cases in other townships within their county.

### Statistical Summary

The Justice Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 12. Disposition summary information is included in Table 13. This is the fifth year of statistics for the courts.

Statewide, the number of Justice Court non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed in fiscal year 2004 increased more than 6 percent from fiscal year 2003. Statewide traffic and parking violations decreased 5 percent, reversing the increase from the previous year. Some rural Justice Courts experienced large increases (Austin, Jackpot, Searchlight, Wadsworth, and Wells Justice Courts) or decreases (Bunkerville and Verdi Justice Courts) in criminal case filings. In traffic violations, other rural Justice Courts saw large increases (Canal [Fernley] and New River [Fallon] Justice Courts) or decreases (Wells and Meadow Valley [Pioche] Justice Courts). Much of this change can be attributed to the increase or decrease of state or local law enforcement staffing. Some areas are facing economic hardships and law enforcement officers were not replaced when the positions were vacated. In some areas, the positions have finally been filled after having been left vacant for an extended period.

As expected, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest criminal and traffic caseload with 60 and 52 percent, respectively,

of the statewide totals. Reno Justice Court was next with more than 7 percent of the criminal and 10 percent of the traffic caseloads. Carson City Justice and Municipal Court followed with more than 4 percent of the traffic caseloads.

Civil filings for fiscal year 2004 increased more than 9 percent statewide from last year. One factor for this increase noted by several courts is that more public agencies and private businesses are seeking collection of debts through the judicial system.

Although Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest percentage of civil cases statewide (59 percent), Reno Justice Court continued to have an unusually high percentage (more than 17 percent) for its population distribution (about 10 percent of the state).

The Gold Run and Gerlach Justice Courts were closed during fiscal year 2004, leaving a total of 48 Justice Courts to begin the next fiscal year.

Disposition information for Justice Courts is provided in Table 13. This is the fourth year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information. Many courts still count data manually while some courts had their case management systems modified during the year, and some courts were unable to provide accurate information. As with many projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

All disposition categories except traffic increased over last year, some increases are owing to improved reporting and others to improving their processing of traffic cases. Las Vegas Justice Court implemented a new case management system for civil cases that allowed for much improved reporting of civil dispositions, which accounted for most of the civil increase in dispositions statewide.

Dividing the disposition numbers by the filing numbers and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. A clearance rate of 90 percent or higher is good. A clearance rate of more than 100 percent generally indicates the court purged many old cases.

<sup>5</sup> The 2003 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 100, which increases the amount of civil disputes to be heard in Justice Courts to \$10,000 effective January 2005.

<sup>6</sup> In some areas near the more urban cities, the Justice Court may not hear domestic violence protection orders because they are heard at the Family Division of District Court.



Table 12.

## Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2003-04

	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Filed		Traffic & Parking Violations Filed	
	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003
<b>First Judicial District</b>								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court	2,620	2,501	4,928	4,485	7,548	6,986	18,188	16,605
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	114	151	85	83	199	234	1,133	1,011
<b>Second Judicial District</b>								
Washoe County								
Gerlach Justice Court	8	17	3	9	11	26	25	188
Incline Village Justice Court	535	739	292	321	827	1,060	1,952	2,324
Reno Justice Court	5,900	6,497	20,561	20,748	26,461	27,245	40,589	46,793
Sparks Justice Court	2,675	2,573	4,815	4,901	7,490	7,474	8,294	8,633
Verdi Justice Court	44	73	24	19	68	92	1,825	1,628
Wadsworth Justice Court	133	74	38	30	171	104	3,500	3,187
<b>Third Judicial District</b>								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	706	740	1,203	1,100	1,909	1,840	5,785	4,348
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	186	215	645	555	831	770	1,897	944
Dayton Justice Court	895	728	698	728	1,593	1,456	4,144	3,533
Mason Valley Justice Court	247	202	493	432	740	634	2,025	1,722
Smith Valley Justice Court	22	25	17	19	39	44	198	363
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	316	357	166	282	482	639	497	401
East Line Justice Court	216	144	212	235	428	379	1,171	949
Elko Justice Court	1,212	1,475	1,597	1,661	2,809	3,136	8,336	8,693
Jackpot Justice Court	189	60	69	152	258	212	1,518	1,676
Wells Justice Court	87	46	76	86	163	132	2,725	4,061
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	45	528	31	17	76	545	3,438	3,014
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	535	631	191	139	726	770	4,050	5,094
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	159	206	37	46	196	252	3,081	2,666
Pahrump Justice Court	1,128	1,398	893	742	2,021	2,140	5,381	4,742
Tonopah Justice Court	187	167	98	109	285	276	3,292	2,684
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>								
Humboldt County								
Gold Run Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	2,906	2,332	851	882	3,757	3,214	5,506	5,264
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	204	220	450	416	654	636	3,097	2,421
Austin Justice Court	48	21	10	3	58	24	1,189	1,118
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	191	217	214	217	405	434	1,942	2,034
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	19	19	8	6	27	25	870	678
Eureka Justice Court	33	38	15	6	48	44	1,534	1,439
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	73	75	22	24	95	99	1,119	1,855
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	122	107	8	8	130	115	3,097	2,665
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	179	136	404	449	583	585	3,478	3,020
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	0	1	1	1	1	242	272
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0	5	0	0	0	5	22	27
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	106	115	269	229	375	344	540	564
Bunkerville Justice Court	15	30	13	10	28	40	970	955
Goodsprings Justice Court	188	209	49	66	237	275	8,762	9,205
Henderson Justice Court	2,062	1,694	3,818	3,273	5,880	4,967	6,142	5,887
Las Vegas Justice Court	47,030	45,124	68,724	59,765	115,754	104,889	205,582	224,076
Laughlin Justice Court	1,400	1,385	403	498	1,803	1,883	7,392	6,953
Mesquite Justice Court	108	136	200	194	308	330	12	19
Moapa Justice Court	17	20	10	19	27	39	4,894	5,602
Moapa Valley Justice Court	123	107	54	60	177	167	549	744
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,062	2,992	2,805	2,700	5,867	5,692	1,003	1,166
Searchlight Justice Court	136	60	9	3	145	63	2,722	3,692
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	941	798	831	668	1,772	1,466	8,394	8,539
Tahoe Justice Court	536	684	211	190	747	874	2,860	2,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,658</b>	<b>76,071</b>	<b>116,551</b>	<b>106,586</b>	<b>194,209</b>	<b>182,657</b>	<b>394,962</b>	<b>416,127</b>

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table 13.

## Summary of Justice Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2003-04

	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Filed		Traffic & Parking Violations Filed	
	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003
<b>First Judicial District</b>								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court	1,358	NR	1,777	NR	3,135	NR	16,081	15,941
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	120	133	100	84	220	217	610	766
<b>Second Judicial District</b>								
Washoe County								
Gerlach Justice Court	2	9	1	8	3	17	2	127
Incline Village Justice Court	568	792	261	285	829	1,077	1,902	2,039
Reno Justice Court	6,394	6,801	9,575	9,367	15,969	16,168	23,299	30,104
Sparks Justice Court	2,480	2,343	2,791	2,843	5,271	5,186	6,660	6,541
Verdi Justice Court	21	53	22	13	43	66	1,884	1,732
Wadsworth Justice Court	124	68	24	25	148	25	2,360	2,746
<b>Third Judicial District</b>								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	1,022	1,175	902	826	1,924	2,001	5,261	3,381
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	213	162	447	466	660	628	1,848	867
Dayton Justice Court	1,017	995	392	399	1,409	399	4,035	3,358
Mason Valley Justice Court	373	246	330	556	703	802	2,007	1,607
Smith Valley Justice Court	11	16	15	17	26	33	173	377
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	239	297	73	125	312	422	369	323
East Line Justice Court	82	60	113	104	195	164	959	848
Elko Justice Court	1,043	538	962	1,309	2,005	538	6,142	5,546
Jackpot Justice Court	33	19	37	62	70	81	1,546	1,938
Wells Justice Court	61	58	80	17	141	75	2,782	4,048
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	25	546	24	16	49	562	3,076	3,059
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	69	89	NR	NR	--	--	3,273	3,871
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	172	194	32	45	204	239	3,145	2,672
Pahrump Justice Court	834	1,071	723	628	1,557	1,699	4,229	4,149
Tonopah Justice Court	147	150	87	88	234	238	2,035	1,655
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>								
Humboldt County								
Gold Run Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	2,492	2,323	692	731	3,184	3,054	4,572	3,772
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	202	205	388	239	590	444	3,063	2,523
Austin Justice Court	25	18	12	3	37	21	941	969
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	193	193	114	115	307	308	1,950	1,638
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	22	15	9	7	31	22	817	604
Eureka Justice Court	34	15	2	3	36	18	599	822
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	63	34	14	11	77	45	796	1,381
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	96	63	9	2	105	65	2,666	2,706
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	150	137	287	383	437	520	2,885	2,472
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	0	2	1	2	1	209	238
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0	4	0	0	0	4	22	30
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	99	99	249	157	348	256	487	539
Bunkerville Justice Court	15	40	13	6	28	46	856	852
Goodsprings Justice Court	218	106	32	45	250	151	7,684	7,357
Henderson Justice Court	632	402	2,798	577	3,430	979	6,329	5,008
Las Vegas Justice Court	NR	NR	52,480	4,789	--	--	166,266	200,830
Laughlin Justice Court	1,821	1,106	252	449	2,073	1,555	5,516	5,208
Mesquite Justice Court	105	114	178	141	283	255	3	1
Moapa Justice Court	10	17	1	5	11	22	4,331	5,416
Moapa Valley Justice Court	170	185	27	57	197	242	465	699
North Las Vegas Justice Court	NR	NR	1,033	18	--	--	NR	NR
Searchlight Justice Court	151	66	9	3	160	69	2,742	3,973
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	1,384	1,031	705	364	2,089	1,395	6,380	6,371
Tahoe Justice Court	757	675	76	150	833	825	2,164	2,052
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,047</b>	<b>22,663</b>	<b>78,150</b>	<b>25,539</b>	<b>103,197</b>	<b>48,202</b>	<b>315,421</b>	<b>353,156</b>

NR Not reported

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning &amp; Analysis Division.

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Cases Per Judicial Position

Justice Courts present a unique problem when comparing non-traffic cases per judicial position. Many of the Justices of the Peace work part-time. Cases in Justice Courts tend to be much simpler than cases in District Courts, thus a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time.

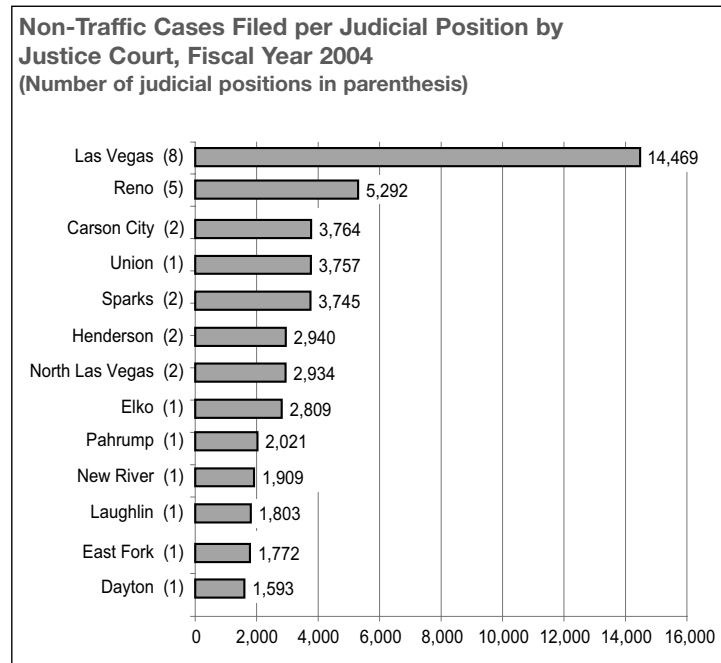
To simplify the presentation in Figure 4, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 non-traffic cases or more per judicial position are shown; the remaining courts are listed in a footnote.<sup>7</sup> The break at 1,000 was arbitrary. The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court is combined for the consolidated municipality and is provided in Figure 4 and Tables 12-13 with Justice Courts.

In Figure 4, nine courts have more than 2,000 non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas had the most at 14,469, up from the previous year (13,111); Las Vegas is adding another judicial position in January 2005 to help reduce this caseload. The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 2,988, an increase from last fiscal year (2,768).

## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of quantifying the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. The first step was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These are special master positions that help with the adjudication process, but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Figure 4.



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for all Justice Courts is 2,988.

Source: *Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.*

Las Vegas is the only Justice Court that reported quasi-judicial positions to help with their burgeoning caseload. They had 0.61 FTE in a Traffic Judge and 0.07 FTE in referees who helped with traffic matters only and 0.41 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims cases. The Traffic Judge is a Senior Justice of the Peace whose findings are not under review by sitting Judges. The other traffic and small claims referees can make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Remaining Justice Courts and their non-traffic cases filed per judicial position (each court has one judicial position).

Asterisk indicated judicial position is part-time.

Canal Justice Court*	831	Tonopah Justice Court	285	Verdi Justice Court	68
Incline Village Justice Court	827	Jackpot Justice Court*	258	Austin Justice Court*	58
Tahoe Justice Court	747	Goodsprings Justice Court	237	Eureka Justice Court*	48
Mason Valley Justice Court*	740	Virginia City Justice Court	199	Smith Valley Justice Court*	39
Hawthorne Justice Court*	726	Beatty Justice Court*	196	Bunkerville Justice Court*	28
Argenta Justice Court*	654	Moapa V. Justice Court*	177	Beowawe Justice Court*	27
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	583	Wadsworth Justice Court*	171	Moapa Justice Court*	27
Carlin Justice Court*	482	Wells Justice Court*	163	Gerlach Justice Court*	11
East Line Justice Court*	428	Searchlight Justice Court	145	Lund Justice Court*	1
Lake Justice Court	405	Pahranagat V. Justice Court*	130	Baker Justice Court*	0
Boulder Justice Court*	375	Meadow V. Justice Court*	95	McDermitt Justice Court*	0
Mesquite Justice Court*	308	Esmeralda Justice Court	76	Paradise V. Justice Court*	0



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Municipal Courts

**Municipal Courts** are city courts and only handle cases that involve violation of city ordinances. Their jurisdiction covers the handling of traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors and, in some cities, parking. Although they generally do not handle civil cases, they have limited jurisdiction under Nevada Revised Statute 5.050.

Most Municipal Court Judges are elected within the municipality they serve (see p. 9); however some are appointed by their city council.

### Statistical Summary

The Municipal Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14. Disposition summary information is provided in Table 15. This is the fifth year of statistics for the courts.

The non-traffic misdemeanor cases filed for Las Vegas Municipal Court were adjusted because the Municipal Court can only provide information by charge, not by case or defendant. This resulted in unfair comparisons being made among Municipal Courts throughout the state. The total charges submitted by Las Vegas Municipal Court were divided by 1.5 to estimate the number of defendants. This value of 1.5 was determined by analyzing the information submitted by other Municipal Courts throughout the state for the last 5 years; only those courts that provided both defendants and charges for individual months were used in the calculations to determine this divisor.

Statewide Municipal Court criminal filings in fiscal year 2004 decreased little more than 1 percent from the year before. Statewide traffic violations were similar, decreasing about 2 percent as well.

**Table 14.**

#### Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2003-04

Court	Non-Traffic Misdemeanor Defendants Charged		Total Traffic and Parking Charges		Civil Filings <sup>a</sup>	
	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2003
Boulder Municipal Court	458	485	3,696	4,426	NR	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	15	26	47	98	20	3
Carlin Municipal Court	83	114	132	165	0	0
Carson City Municipal Court	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Elko Municipal Court	300	186	1,868	1,038	NR	NR
Ely Municipal Court	118	115	369	505	NR	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	431	453	1,181	981	0	0
Fernley Municipal Court	235	237	2,095	1,934	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	5,353	5,377	23,315	24,347	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	28,259 <sup>c</sup>	29,062 <sup>c,r</sup>	115,710	130,728	(d)	(d)
Lovelock Municipal Court	65	100	124	160	0	0
Mesquite Municipal Court	579	601	2,259	2,460	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	8,364	8,796	47,618	40,557 <sup>f</sup>	(d)	(d)
Reno Municipal Court	7,598	7,354	26,131	20,803	(d)	(d)
Sparks Municipal Court	5,724	5,859	10,265	11,205	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	40	38	163	198	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	500	151	887	647	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	113	120	266	302	NR	NR
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,235</b>	<b>59,074</b>	<b>236,126</b>	<b>240,554</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

<sup>b</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

<sup>c</sup> Court reported non-traffic misdemeanor numbers by charges so total charges were divided by the statewide Municipal Court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

<sup>d</sup> Cases are handled administratively by the city.

<sup>f</sup> Court reported traffic and parking numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

<sup>r</sup> Revised.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table 15.

## Summary of Municipal Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2003-04

Court	Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic Cases Disposed		Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed	
	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2003
Boulder Municipal Court	720	933	3,457	4,566	NR	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	12	3	53	60	8	3
Carlin Municipal Court	89	82	96	117	0	0
Carson City Municipal Court	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Elko Municipal Court	204	161	1,671	1,016	NR	NR
Ely Municipal Court	219	227	385	543	NR	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	229	256	561	477	0	0
Fernley Municipal Court	381	289	2,350	2,055	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	6,027	6,760 <sup>b</sup>	21,554	13,456	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	44,793 <sup>b</sup>	39,569	115,966	125,092	(c)	(c)
Lovelock Municipal Court	65	83	54	84	0	0
Mesquite Municipal Court	762	731	2,048	2,360	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	6,904	5,686	35,452	44,266	(c)	(c)
Reno Municipal Court	11,909 <sup>b</sup>	11,637 <sup>b</sup>	23,477	19,803	(c)	(c)
Sparks Municipal Court	5,893 <sup>e</sup>	7,243 <sup>e</sup>	11,865 <sup>e</sup>	12,458 <sup>e</sup>	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	25	23	130	158	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	308	141	896	657	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	106	80	136	121	NR	NR
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,646</b>	<b>73,904</b>	<b>220,151</b>	<b>227,289</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.<sup>b</sup> Dispositions are by charges, not defendants.<sup>c</sup> Cases are handled administratively by the city.<sup>e</sup> Estimated.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning &amp; Analysis Division.

Some Municipal Courts experienced large increases (Elko and West Wendover) or decreases (Lovelock and Mesquite) in criminal case filings. Some Municipal Courts saw large increases (Elko and West Wendover) or decreases (Caliente and Wells) in traffic and parking violations. Some of this change can be attributed to the increase or decrease of local law enforcement staffing. Some cities are facing economic hardships and law enforcement officers were not replaced when the positions were vacated.

For only the third time since data collection began in July 1999, a Municipal Court had civil filings. The Caliente Municipal Court had 20 small claims filings wherein the city was seeking payment through the courts for unpaid utility bills. This is the type of limited jurisdiction civil case a Municipal Court may handle.

The disposition information for Municipal Courts is provided in Table 15. This is the fourth year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information. Some courts had to count manually, some courts had their case management systems modified during the year, and some courts were unable to provide

accurate information. As with many projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

Non-traffic dispositions increased 6 percent over last year, some owing to improved reporting and others to improved clearance rates. The traffic and parking dispositions decreased 3 percent from last year.

Dividing the disposition numbers by the filing numbers and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. Generally, a clearance rate of 90 percent or better is good; a clearance rate of more than 100 percent indicates a reduction in the backlog or the court purged many old cases. However, since some of the courts provided incomplete information, many rates cannot be accurately determined.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2004 is shown in Figure 5. Historical information for the previous 3 years is also provided because a change was made in the calculations this year (dividing



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

Las Vegas Municipal Court non-traffic misdemeanor charges by 1.5 to approximate defendants as reported by other courts). To avoid misrepresentations or inaccurate comparisons to previous years' information, historical information has been revised and is provided in the chart as well. The courts are ranked in order based on the fiscal year 2004 data. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time.

Continuing the order as in the previous year, the two Municipal Courts with the largest non-traffic caseload per judicial position are North Las Vegas (8,364) and Las Vegas (4,710), with Sparks (2,862), Henderson (2,677), and Reno (1,900) following. The statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,157, up from the revised number for the previous year (2,037). The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court is combined for the consolidated municipality and is provided in Figure 4 and Tables 12-13 with Justice Courts.

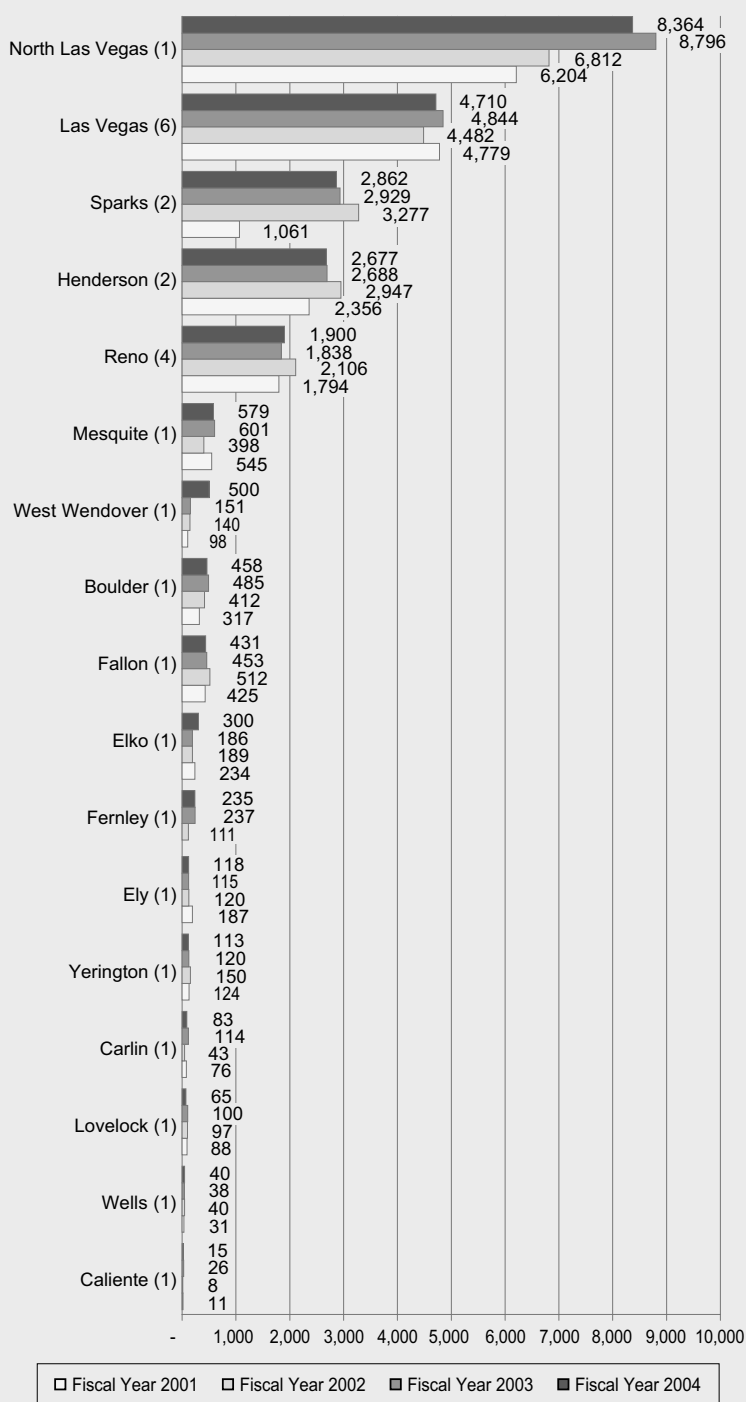
## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of counting the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. The first step was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These are positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Municipal Court information submitted indicates no court received any judicial assistance.

**Figure 5.**

**Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Municipal Court, Fiscal Years 2001-04**  
(Number of judicial positions in parenthesis)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,157.  
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

## Courts with Incomplete Data

The courts that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2004 are listed in Table 16, as are the specific elements of the data missing during the year.

Other tables in this report have data in italics or a footnote (i) indicating the data are incomplete and referring the reader here to determine what is missing. In a few instances, courts submitted all they could count, but acknowledge that there are issues with the numbers and they are working to correct them. In those instances, the data will be in italics or flagged with footnote e, estimated, but the court may not appear here if all monthly reports were filed.

Last fiscal year, nine courts were unable to provide all their caseload disposition information. This year, all courts were again able to provide some caseload filing information. However, eight courts are missing some or all of their disposition information. Reporting by the courts continues to improve and all the courts are to be commended for their efforts to meet the Uniform System for Judicial Records reporting requirements.

The disposition data requirements are harder for court staff to collect than the filing information. Many courts throughout

Nevada do not have automated case management systems; court staff must manually collect the information from each case or citation.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is working with the courts on technology projects that will bring case management systems (*CourtView*) to many of the rural courts and similar technology to some urban courts. This new system provides the courts with an automated mechanism to prepare their monthly statistics reports while also improving court processes and procedures.

During fiscal year 2004, Carson City District Court and North Las Vegas Municipal Court began using the criminal module, and Argenta (Battle Mountain), Beowawe, Carson City, and Eureka Justice Courts began using the new system in its entirety. At the end of fiscal year 2004 throughout Nevada, 19 courts were using some or all of the modules for the *CourtView* case management system. Several courts are scheduled to begin using the new system during fiscal year 2005.

**Table 16.**

### Courts with Incomplete Data

Court	Missing Data
<b>First Judicial District</b>	
Carson City Justice & Municipal Court	Criminal Disposition Data (except traffic) Civil Disposition Data
	July - October 2003 July - October 2003
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	
Mineral County District Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data Family Filing & Disposition Data Juvenile Filing & Disposition Data
	October 2003 - June 2004 October 2003 - June 2004 October 2003 - June 2004 October 2003 - June 2004
Hawthorne Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data Traffic Disposition Data Civil Disposition Data
	July 2003 - June 2004 April - June 2004 July 2003 - June 2004
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	
White Pine County District Court	Civil Disposition Data
Baker Justice Court	Criminal Filings & Disposition Data
Eureka Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data (partial)
	Unable to provide complete information September 2003 - June 2004 July 2003 - May 2004
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	
Las Vegas Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data (except traffic)
North Las Vegas Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data Civil Disposition Data (except TPOs)
	July 2003 - June 2004 July 2003 - June 2004 July - September 2003





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APPENDIX TABLES

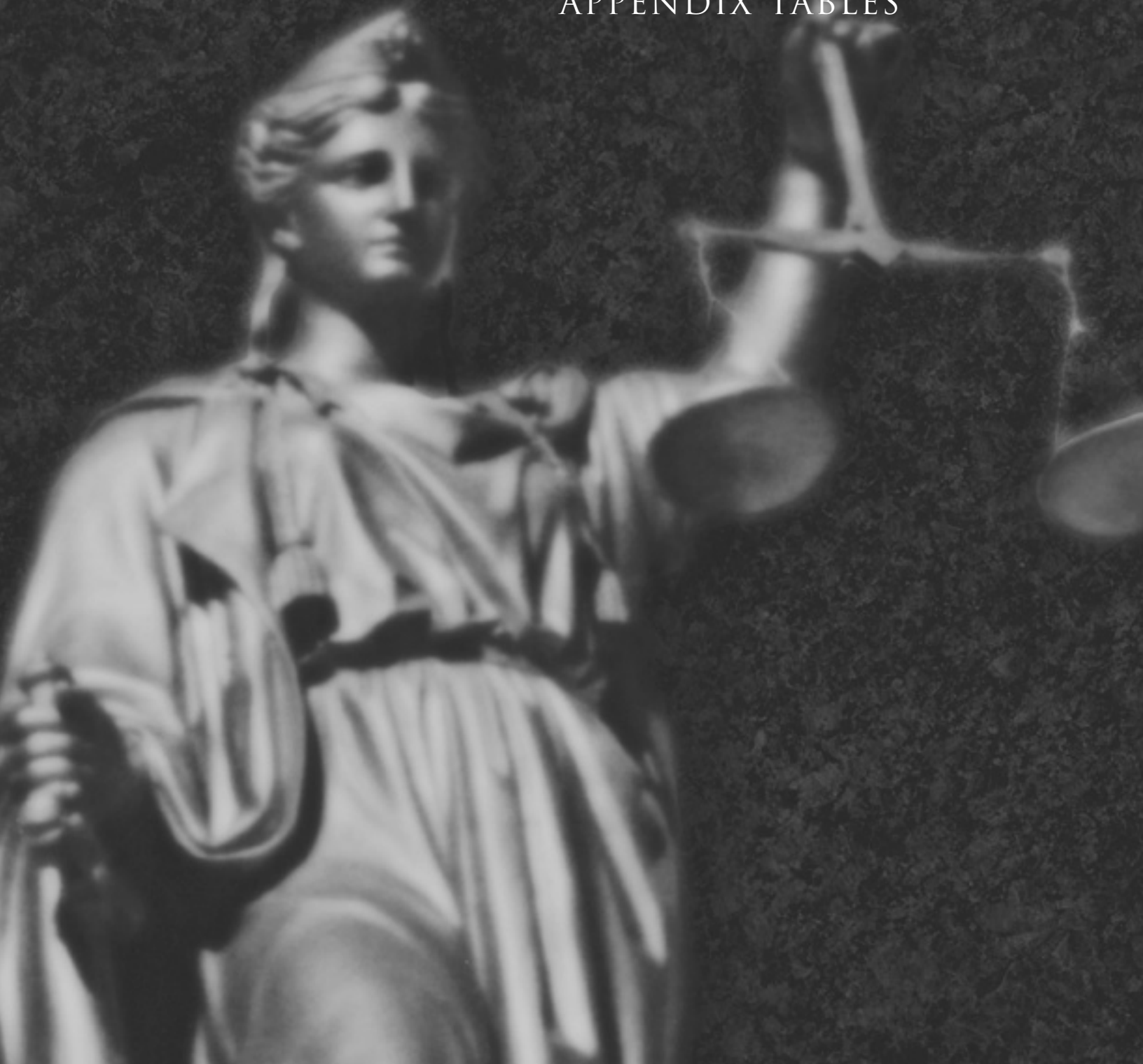


Table A1.

## Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary, Fiscal Year 2004

Court	Population as of 7/1/03 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized Judicial Positions as of 6/30/04	Criminal Cases <sup>b</sup>	Non- Criminal Cases <sup>c</sup>	Total Non-Traffic Cases	Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	Traffic & Parking Violations	Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>	58,956	2	307	2,710	3,017	1,758	1,316	1,343
Carson City District Court	55,220		302	2,628	2,930	1,723	1,293	1,320
Storey County District Court	3,736		5	82	87	35	23	23
Carson City								
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court <sup>d</sup>	55,220	2	2,620	4,928	7,548	NR	18,188	16,081
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	3,736	1	114	85	199	220	1,133	610
<b>Second Judicial District</b>	373,233	12	3,059	19,005	22,064	18,249	NR	NR
Washoe County District Court	373,233		3,059	19,005	22,064	18,249	NR	NR
Washoe County								
Gerlach Justice Court	819	0	8	3	11	3	25	2
Incline Village Justice Court	10,641	1	535	292	827	829	1,952	1,902
Reno Justice Court	234,438	5	5,900	20,561	26,461	15,969	40,589	23,299
Sparks Justice Court	122,293	2	2,675	4,815	7,490	5,271	8,294	6,660
Verdi Justice Court	3,277	1	44	24	68	43	1,825	1,884
Wadsworth Justice Court	1,765	1	133	38	171	148	3,500	2,360
Reno Municipal Court	195,727	4	7,598	NJ	7,598	11,909	26,131	23,477
Sparks Municipal Court	78,435	2	5,724	0	5,724	5,893	10,265	11,865
<b>Third Judicial District</b>	67,052	3 <sup>f</sup>	334	3,666	4,000	2,068	1,826	1,627
Churchill County District Court	25,808		169	1,926	2,095	1,107	341	313
Lyon County District Court	41,244		165	1,740	1,905	961	1,485	1,314
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	25,808	1	706	1,203	1,909	1,924	5,785	5,261
Fallon Municipal Court	8,301	1	431	0	431	229	1,181	561
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	11,718	1	186	645	831	660	1,897	1,848
Dayton Justice Court	18,987	1	895	698	1,593	1,409	4,144	4,035
Mason Valley Justice Court	8,746	1	247	493	740	703	2,025	2,007
Smith Valley Justice Court	1,793	1	22	17	39	26	198	173
Fernley Municipal Court	11,718	1	235	NR	235	381	2,095	2,350
Yerington Municipal Court	2,902	(g)	113	NR	113	106	266	136
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>	45,805	2	251	1,711	1,962	1,255	455	428
Elko County District Court	45,805		251	1,711	1,962	1,255	455	428
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	2,239	1	316	166	482	312	497	369
East Line Justice Court	4,732	1	216	212	428	195	1,171	959
Elko Justice Court	34,675	1	1,212	1,597	2,809	2,005	8,336	6,142
Jackpot Justice Court	1,203	1	189	69	258	70	1,518	1,546
Wells Justice Court	2,956	1	87	76	163	141	2,725	2,782
Carlin Municipal Court	2,045	(h)	83	0	83	89	132	96
Elko Municipal Court	16,354	(i)	300	NR	300	204	1,868	1,671
Wells Municipal Court	1,373	(j)	40	NR	40	25	163	130
West Wendover Municipal Court	4,732	(k)	500	NR	500	308	887	896
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	42,454	2	303	2,294	2,597	1,842	308	361
Esmeralda County District Court	1,116		15	15	30	50	22	17
Mineral County District Court	4,687		4	45	49	40	5	1
Nye County District Court	36,651		284	2,234	2,518	1,752	281	343
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	1,116	1	45	31	76	49	3,438	3,076
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	4,687	1	535	191	726	--	4,050	3,273
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	2,184	1	159	37	196	204	3,081	3,145
Pahrump Justice Court	29,613	1	1,128	893	2,021	1,557	5,381	4,229
Tonopah Justice Court	4,853	1	187	98	285	234	3,292	2,035
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>	28,701	2	211	994	1,205	883	148	147
Humboldt County District Court	16,457		136	535	671	377	NR	NR
Lander County District Court	5,277		11	187	198	209	137	136
Pershing County District Court	6,967		64	272	336	297	11	11
Humboldt County								
Gold Run Justice Court	421	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDermitt Justice Court	1,136	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	417	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	14,483	1	2,906	851	3,757	3,184	5,506	4,572
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	4,735	1	204	450	654	590	3,097	3,063
Austin Justice Court	542	1	48	10	58	37	1,189	941
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	6,967	1	191	214	405	307	1,942	1,950
Lovelock Municipal Court	2,405	0	65	0	65	65	124	54

Table A1.

## Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary, Fiscal Year 2004 (cont'd)

Court	Population as of 7/1/03 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized Judicial Positions as of 6/30/04	Criminal Cases <sup>b</sup>	Non- Criminal Cases <sup>c</sup>	Total Non-Traffic Cases	Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	Traffic & Parking Violations	Traffic & Parking Violations Disposed
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	17,330	2	146	500	646	454		
Eureka County District Court	1,420		13	42	55	16	(/)	(/)
Lincoln County District Court	3,749		43	145	188	150	(/)	(/)
White Pine County District Court	8,842		90	313	403	288	(/)	(/)
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	475	1	19	8	27	31	870	817
Eureka Justice Court	945	1	33	15	48	36	1,534	599
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	2,798	1	73	22	95	77	1,119	796
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	951	1	122	8	130	105	3,097	2,666
Caliente Municipal Court	1,184	(m)	15	20	35	0	47	53
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	8,269	1	179	404	583	437	3,478	2,885
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	395	1	0	1	1	2	242	209
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	178	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ely Municipal Court	3,829	1	118	NR	118	219	369	385
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	1,620,748	33	8,454	78,424	86,878	76,790	2,465	NR
Clark County District Court	1,620,748		8,454	78,424	86,878	76,790	2,465	NR
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	15,445	1	106	269	375	348	540	487
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,165	1	15	13	28	28	970	856
Goodsprings Justice Court	3,759	1	188	49	237	250	8,762	7,684
Henderson Justice Court	218,370	2	2,062	3,818	5,880	3,430	6,142	6,329
Las Vegas Justice Court	1,182,623	8	47,030	68,724	115,754	--	205,582	166,266
Laughlin Justice Court	6,990	1	1,400	403	1,803	2,073	7,392	5,516
Mesquite Justice Court	13,994	1	108	200	308	283	12	3
Moapa Justice Court	1,642	1	17	10	27	11	4,894	4,331
Moapa Valley Justice Court	6,603	1	123	54	177	197	549	465
North Las Vegas Justice Court	168,402	2	3,062	2,805	5,867	--	1,003	NR
Searchlight Justice Court	1,754	1	136	9	145	160	2,722	2,742
Boulder Municipal Court	14,934	(n)	458	0	458	720	3,696	3,457
Henderson Municipal Court	217,448	2	5,353	NR	5,353	6,027	23,315	21,554
Las Vegas Municipal Court	528,617	6	28,259	NJ	28,259	44,793	115,710	115,966
Mesquite Municipal Court	13,895	(o)	579	NR	579	762	2,259	2,048
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	146,005	1	8,364	NJ	8,364	6,904	47,618	35,452
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>	45,603	2	138	1,626	1,764	1,400	458	443
Douglas County District Court	45,603		138	1,626	1,764	1,400	458	443
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	38,184	1	941	831	1,772	2,089	8,394	6,380
Tahoe Justice Court	7,419	1	536	211	747	833	2,860	2,164
<b>TOTALS</b>	2,296,566							
District Court Judges		60	13,203	110,930	124,133	104,721	6,976	4,349
Justice Court Judges		63	77,658	116,551	194,209	103,197	394,962	315,421
Municipal Court Judges		27	58,235	20	58,255	78,654	236,126	220,151

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

<sup>a</sup> Source: Nevada State Demographer. "Township boundaries may not correspond to incorporated cities, and are estimated using a different method than the city/town estimates. Because of this, they will differ from city estimates."<sup>b</sup> Criminal cases include felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor defendants. Traffic and parking violations are not included.<sup>c</sup> Non-criminal cases include civil, family, and juvenile (non-traffic) cases for District Court and civil cases for Justice and Municipal Courts.<sup>d</sup> Carson City is a combined county and city municipality. Two judges serve in the combined Justice/Municipal Court.<sup>f</sup> These judges administer the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court hearing cases assigned to the drug program from the First, Third, and Ninth Judicial Districts.<sup>g</sup> Smith Valley Justice Court judge also serves as Yerington Municipal Court judge.<sup>h</sup> Carlin Justice Court judge also serves as Carlin Municipal Court judge.<sup>i</sup> Elko Justice Court judge also serves as Elko Municipal Court judge.<sup>j</sup> Wells Justice Court judge also serves as Wells Municipal Court judge.<sup>k</sup> East Line Justice Court judge also serves as West Wendover Municipal Court judge.<sup>l</sup> Justices of the peace serve as juvenile masters for all juvenile traffic cases.<sup>m</sup> Pahranagat Valley Justice Court judge also serves as Caliente Municipal Court judge.<sup>n</sup> Boulder Justice Court judge also serves as Boulder City Municipal Court judge.<sup>o</sup> Mesquite Justice Court judge also serves as Mesquite Municipal Court judge.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning &amp; Analysis Division.

Table A2.

## Criminal Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2004

	Criminal Defendants		Criminal Appeals from Lower Court	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed
	Felony	Gross Misdemeanor			
<b>First Judicial District</b>					
Carson City District Court	268	22	12	302	272
Storey County District Court	5	0	0	5	7
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County District Court	2,287	728	44	3,059	2,783
<b>Third Judicial District</b>					
Churchill County District Court	133	36	0	169	131
Lyon County District Court	133	32	0	165	145
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Elko County District Court	235	5	11	251	261
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>					
Esmeralda County District Court	11	2	2	15	24
Mineral County District Court	4 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	4 <sup>i</sup>	8 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	264	20	0	284	207
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>					
Humboldt County District Court	94	35	7	136	110
Lander County District Court	6	5	0	11	22
Pershing County District Court	61	1	2	64	57
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Eureka County District Court	11	2	0	13	11
Lincoln County District Court	38	4	1	43	33
White Pine County District Court	84	3	3	90	65
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County District Court	6,978 <sup>a</sup>	1,371 <sup>a</sup>	105	8,454	10,848
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>					
Douglas County District Court	129	4	5	138	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,741</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>13,203</b>	<b>15,098</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data are by cases instead of defendants.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A3.

## Civil Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2004

	New Civil Cases Filed							Total Civil Cases	Total Cases Disposed
	Real Property	Construction Defect	Torts - Negligence	Torts	Probate	Other	Reopened Cases		
First Judicial District									
Carson City District Court	21	0	115	23	104	419	1	683	432
Storey County District Court	6	0	0	4	8	3	0	21	0
Second Judicial District									
Washoe County District Court	131	10	828	166	600	1,937	415	4,087	3,088
Third Judicial District									
Churchill County District Court	8	0	27	51	48	3	0	137	90
Lyon County District Court	27	1	29	3	92	121	12	285	73
Fourth Judicial District									
Elko County District Court	13	0	70	16	99	139	159	496	174
Fifth Judicial District									
Esmeralda County District Court	1	0	0	0	4	2	1	8	20
Mineral County District Court	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	71	0	30	12	181	113	0	407	191
Sixth Judicial District									
Humboldt County District Court	2	0	10	3	47	57	0	119	41
Lander County District Court	1	0	4	1	8	12	0	26	17
Pershing County District Court	3	1	6	10	26	11	0	57	31
Seventh Judicial District									
Eureka County District Court	3	0	2	0	7	4	0	16	1
Lincoln County District Court	2	0	1	3	13	9	0	28	23
White Pine County District Court	4	0	4	16	31	36	0	91	26 <sup>i</sup>
Eighth Judicial District									
Clark County District Court	1,064	77	5,498	654	2,439	10,791	1,626	22,149	22,676
Ninth Judicial District									
Douglas County District Court	26	2	55	9	89	213	6	400	281
Total	1,383	91	6,679	971	3,796	13,871	2,220	29,011	27,169

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Table A4.

## Family Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2004

	New Family-Related Cases Filed											Total Family Cases	Total Cases Disposed
	Marriage Dissolution	Support/ Custody	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	Adop- tions	Paternity	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscel- laneous Domestic Relations	Guardian- ship	Mental Health Case	Request for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (TPOs)	Re- opened Cases		
First Judicial District													
Carson City District Court	388	12	216	23	7	22	22	93	9	0	NR	792	717
Storey County District Court	23	1	0	1	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	33	16
Second Judicial District													
Washoe County District Court	2,934	242	1,567	164	57	220	273	478	410	1,790	2,011	10,146	9,211
Third Judicial District													
Churchill County District Court	311	4	162	12	4	12	15	22	0	0	NR	542	494
Lyon County District Court	107	5	282	5	0	7	15	43	0	0	NR	464	162
Fourth Judicial District													
Elko County District Court	267	17	245	44	13	21	24	42	0	174	10	857	691
Fifth Judicial District													
Esmeralda County District Court	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5
Mineral County District Court	5 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	23 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	30 <sup>i</sup>	17 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	525	17	295	6	10	19	17	38	0	1	0	928	817
Sixth Judicial District													
Humboldt County District Court	92	7	100	7	1	5	4	15	0	0	6	237	184
Lander County District Court	29	0	1	2	0	3	0	5	0	0	15	55	55
Pershing County District Court	33	2	29	0	0	3	1	13	0	0	4	85	138
Seventh Judicial District													
Eureka County District Court	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Lincoln County District Court	18	0	11	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	35	28
White Pine County District Court	47	0	48	8	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	112	158
Eighth Judicial District													
Clark County District Court	14,392	1,177	5,037	532	340	603	832	1,322	1,314	8,423	5,799	39,771	34,760
Ninth Judicial District													
Douglas County District Court	617	14	90	26	19	22	25	32	0	0	12	857	774
Total	19,793	1,498	8,106	832	451	940	1,228	2,124	1,733	10,388	7,858	54,951	48,229

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning &amp; Analysis Division.



Table A5.

## Juvenile Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2004

	New Juvenile Cases Filed							Total Non-Traffic Cases		Juvenile Traffic Violations	
	Criminal-type Juvenile Petition	Status Petitions	Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions	Miscellaneous Petitions	Informal Hearings	Detention/Extradition Hearings	Protective Custody Hearings	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>											
Carson City District Court	290	55	14	163	335	281	15	1,153	302	1,293	1,320
Storey County District Court	8	0	2	0	0	15	3	28	12	23	23
<b>Second Judicial District</b>											
Washoe County District Court	1,889	NR	554	10	1,873	NR	446	4,772	3,167	NR	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>											
Churchill County District Court	274	147	12	28	741	32	13	1,247	392	341	313
Lyon County District Court	533	79	14	0	211	122	32	991	581	1,485	1,314
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>											
Elko County District Court	214	0	13	1	0	100	30	358	129	455	428
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>											
Esmeralda County District Court	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	22	17
Mineral County District Court	13 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	14 <sup>i</sup>	10 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	409	103	31	8	161	186	1	899	537	281 <sup>a</sup>	343
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>											
Humboldt County District Court	176	0	3	0	NR	NR	NR	179	42	NR	NR
Lander County District Court	34	0	7	1	17	28	19	106	115	137	136
Pershing County District Court	45	31	3	16	34	0	1	130	71	11	11
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>											
Eureka County District Court	22	0	0	1	1	0	0	24	2	(b)	(b)
Lincoln County District Court	73	0	0	4	0	4	1	82	66	(b)	(b)
White Pine County District Court	94	6	8	0	0	1	1	110	61	(b)	(b)
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>											
Clark County District Court	8,983	0	1,077	82	0	4,018	2,344	16,504	8,506	2,465	NR
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>											
Douglas County District Court	256	1	6	1	0	98	7	369	231	458	443
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,314</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>4,885</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>26,968</b>	<b>14,225</b>	<b>6,976</b>	<b>4,349</b>

NR Not reported

<sup>a</sup> Traffic numbers are by defendants, not charges.<sup>b</sup> Juvenile traffic violations handled by Justice Courts.<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning &amp; Analysis Division.

Table A6.

## Criminal Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2004

	Criminal Defendants Charged					Charges				
	Felony	Gross Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic	Total Filed	Total Disposed	Juvenile Traffic	Traffic Violations	Parking Violations	Total Filed	Total Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City										
Carson City Justice Court	766	98	1,756 <sup>a</sup>	2,620	1,358	NJ	18,055 <sup>a</sup>	133 <sup>a</sup>	18,188 <sup>a</sup>	16,081
Storey County										
Virginia City Justice Court	22	0	92	114	120	NJ	1,114	19	1,133	610
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County										
Gerlach Justice Court	0	0	8	8	2	NJ	25	0	25	2
Incline Village Justice Court	38	10	487	535	568	47	1,484	421	1,952	1,902
Reno Justice Court	2,338	277	3,285	5,900	6,394	NJ	40,589	NJ	40,589	23,299
Sparks Justice Court	1,083	222	1,370	2,675	2,480	NJ	8,294	NJ	8,294	6,660
Verdi Justice Court	8	9	27	44	21	NJ	1,822	3	1,825	1,884
Wadsworth Justice Court	0	0	133	133	124	NJ	3,500	0	3,500	2,360
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County										
New River Justice Court	280	62	364	706	1,022	NJ	5,785	0	5,785	5,261
Lyon County										
Canal Justice Court	101	15	70	186	213	NJ	1,897	0	1,897	1,848
Dayton Justice Court	137	20	738	895	1,017	NJ	4,135	9	4,144	4,035
Mason Valley Justice Court	115	11	121	247	373	NJ	2,025	0	2,025	2,007
Smith Valley Justice Court	4	2	16	22	11	NJ	198	0	198	173
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County										
Carlin Justice Court	NR	NR	316	316	239	NJ	497	0	497	369
East Line Justice Court	NR	NR	216	216	82	NJ	1,171	NR	1,171	959
Elko Justice Court	321	20	871	1,212	1,043	NJ	8,334	2	8,336	6,142
Jackpot Justice Court	4	NR	185	189	33	NJ	1,510	8	1,518	1,546
Wells Justice Court	0	0	87	87	61	NJ	2,725	0	2,725	2,782
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County										
Esmeralda Justice Court	16	7	22	45	25	NJ	3,438	0	3,438	3,076
Mineral County										
Hawthorne Justice Court	106	14	415	535	69 <sup>i</sup>	NJ	4,050 <sup>b,i</sup>	0	4,050 <sup>b,i</sup>	3,273 <sup>b,i</sup>
Nye County										
Beatty Justice Court	60	8	91	159	172	NJ	3,081	0	3,081	3,145
Pahrump Justice Court	423	65	640	1,128	834	NJ	5,353	28	5,381	4,229
Tonopah Justice Court	90	5	92	187	147	NJ	3,291	1	3,292	2,035
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County										
Gold Run Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	NJ	0	0	0	0
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	NJ	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	NJ	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	217	27	2,662	2,906	2,492	NJ	5,353	153	5,506	4,572
Lander County										
Argenta Justice Court	30	3	171	204	202	NJ	3,096	1	3,097	3,063
Austin Justice Court	2	1	45	48	25	NJ	1,189	0	1,189	941
Pershing County										
Lake Justice Court	71	11	109	191	193	NJ	1,942	0	1,942	1,950
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County										
Beowawe Justice Court	1	1	17	19	22	3	867	0	870	817
Eureka Justice Court	6	0	27	33	34	2	1,532	0	1,534	599 <sup>i</sup>
Lincoln County										
Meadow Valley Justice Court	40	6	27	73	63	17	1,102	0	1,119	796
Pahranaagat Valley Justice Court	19	3	100	122	96	17	3,080	0	3,097	2,666
White Pine County										
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	96	9	74	179	150	179	3,299	0	3,478	2,885
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	242 <sup>i</sup>	0	242 <sup>i</sup>	209 <sup>i</sup>
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	22 <sup>i</sup>	0	22 <sup>i</sup>	22 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County										
Boulder Justice Court	77	13	16	106	99	8	532	0	540	487
Bunkerville Justice Court	6	0	9	15	15	29	941	0	970	856
Goodsprings Justice Court	109	3	76	188	218	0	8,762	0	8,762	7,684
Henderson Justice Court	1,615	149	298	2,062	632 <sup>i</sup>	147	5,927	68	6,142	6,329
Las Vegas Justice Court	18,568	1,189	27,273	47,030	NR	5,047	194,474	6,061	205,582	166,266
Laughlin Justice Court	524	17	859	1,400	1,821	117	6,363	912	7,392	5,516 <sup>e</sup>
Mesquite Justice Court	88	4	16	108	105	0	12	0	12	3
Moapa Justice Court	8	1	8	17	10	81	4,813	0	4,894	4,331
Moapa Valley Justice Court	22	28	73	123	170	NR	505	44	549	465
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,599	135	1,328	3,062	NR	27	976	0	1,003	NR
Searchlight Justice Court	43	0	93	136	151	23	2,697 <sup>b</sup>	2	2,722	2,742
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County										
East Fork Justice Court	231	27	683	941	1,384	NJ	8,275	119	8,394	6,380
Tahoe Justice Court	119	8	409	536	757	NJ	2,704	156	2,860	2,164
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,403</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>45,775</b>	<b>77,658</b>	<b>25,047</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>381,078</b>	<b>8,140</b>	<b>394,962</b>	<b>315,421</b>

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals.<sup>b</sup> Court reported traffic numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.<sup>e</sup> Estimated.<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Table A7.

## Civil Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada, Fiscal Year 2004

New Civil Cases Filed								
	General Civil	Small Claims	Landlord/Tenant (formerly Summary Evictions)	Requests for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (TPOs)	Request for Protection Orders (non-domestic violence)	Re-opened Cases	Total Civil Cases	Total Cases Disposed
First Judicial District								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court	1,913	638	1,274	513	569	2 1	4,928	1,777
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	8	26	16	28	6	1	85	100
Second Judicial District								
Washoe County								
Gerlach Justice Court	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	1
Incline Village Justice Court	47	118	105	12	10	0	292	261
Reno Justice Court	9,002	3,157	7,920	(a)	482	0	20,561	9,575
Sparks Justice Court	985	1,315	2,357	(a)	158	0	4,815	2,791
Verdi Justice Court	2	11	11	0	0	0	24	22
Wadsworth Justice Court	0	4	27	6	1	0	38	24
Third Judicial District								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	266	414	276	147	82	18	1,203	902
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	74	284	173	92	21	1	645	447
Dayton Justice Court	114	165	232	94	93	0	698	392
Mason Valley Justice Court	93	289	13	88	9	1	493	330
Smith Valley Justice Court	0	11	0	6	0	0	17	15
Fourth Judicial District								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	19	133	14	(a)	(a)	0	166	73
East Line Justice Court	44	123	22	10	13	0	212	113
Elko Justice Court	659	760	138	0	40	0	1,597	962
Jackpot Justice Court	5	55	7	2	0	0	69	37
Wells Justice Court	18	39	0	14	5	0	76	80
Fifth Judicial District								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	2	7	0	17	5	0	31	24
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	32	82	41	36	0	0	191	NR
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	4	13	1	16	3	0	37	32
Pahrump Justice Court	150	154	208	324	35	22	893	723
Tonopah Justice Court	28	26	6	24	14	0	98	87
Sixth Judicial District								
Humboldt County								
Gold Run Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	189	490	44	77	51	0	851	692
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	40	381	4	23	0	2	450	388
Austin Justice Court	0	6	1	0	3	0	10	12
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	22	131	27	30	4	0	214	114
Seventh Judicial District								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	5	2	0	0	1	0	8	9
Eureka Justice Court	6	4	3	1	1	0	15	2
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	0	13	5	4	0	0	22	14
Pahrnanagat Valley Justice Court	0	5	1	2	0	0	8	9
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	132	126	71	61	14	0	404	287
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>
Eighth Judicial District								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	23	69	72	55	50	0	269	249
Bunkerville Justice Court	1	3	3	1	5	0	13	13
Goodsprings Justice Court	9	10	6	15	9	0	49	32
Henderson Justice Court	515	897	2,037	(a)	222	147	3,818	2,798
Las Vegas Justice Court	32,474	8,996	23,291	(a)	1,800	2,163	68,724	52,480
Laughlin Justice Court	15	255	75	36	22	0	403	252
Mesquite Justice Court	16	87	46	26	25	0	200	178
Moapa Justice Court	0	1	0	7	2	0	10	1
Moapa Valley Justice Court	2	10	12	11	19	0	54	27
North Las Vegas Justice Court	152	766	1,808	(a)	76	3	2,805	1,033
Searchlight Justice Court	1	4	3	1	0	0	9	9
Ninth Judicial District								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	253	275	103	105	95	0	831	705
Tahoe Justice Court	73	46	27	26	11	28	211	76
Total	47,394	20,404	40,480	1,910	3,956	2,407	116,551	78,150

NR Not reported.

a Temporary protective orders are processed and recorded at the District Court level. | i Data are incomplete. See Table 16 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning &amp; Analysis Division.

Table A8.

## Municipal Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Year 2004

Court	Defendants Charged	Charges				Civil Filings
	Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic	Traffic Violations	Juvenile Traffic	Parking Violations	Total Traffic and Parking	
Boulder Municipal Court	458	3,466	165	65	3,696	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	15	47	NJ	0	47	20
Carlin Municipal Court	83	130	NJ	2	132	0
Carson City Municipal Court	(a)	(a)	NJ	(a)	(a)	(a)
Elko Municipal Court	300	1,781	NJ	87	1,868	NR
Ely Municipal Court	118	356	NJ	13	369	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	431	1,173	NJ	8	1,181	0
Fernley Municipal Court	235	2,095	NJ	0	2,095	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	5,353	20,781	815	1,719	23,315	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	28,259 <sup>b</sup>	115,710	NJ	(c)	115,710	(c)
Lovelock Municipal Court	65	124	NJ	0	124	0
Mesquite Municipal Court	579	2,182	NJ	77	2,259	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	8,364	45,446	NJ	2,172	47,618	(c)
Reno Municipal Court	7,598	26,131	NJ	(c)	26,131	(c)
Sparks Municipal Court	5,724	8,728	NJ	1,537	10,265	NR
Wells Municipal Court	40	163	NJ	0	163	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	500	860	NJ	27	887	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	113	263	NJ	3	266	NR
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,235</b>	<b>229,436</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>236,126</b>	<b>20</b>

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

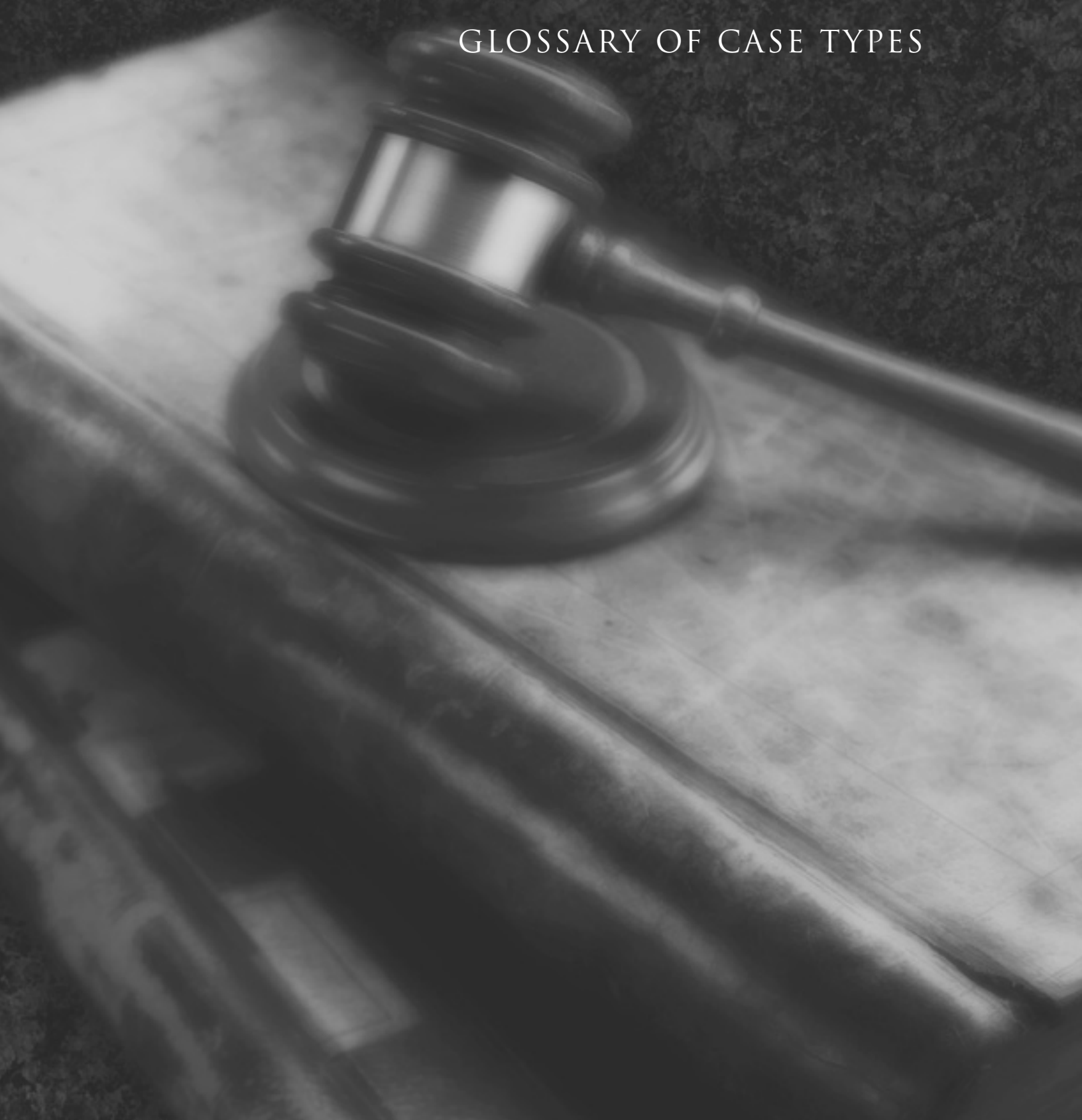
<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

<sup>b</sup> Court reported non-traffic misdemeanor numbers by charges so total charges were divided by the Municipal Court statewide average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

<sup>c</sup> Parking violations or civil cases are handled administratively by the city.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

THE NEVADA JUDICIARY  
GLOSSARY OF CASE TYPES





# Glossary of Case Types

## Criminal Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted by defendants in District Court when the court receives notification of a bind over from a lower court or receives the formal charging document from the District Attorney's Office. Felony and gross misdemeanor filings in Justice Court are counted by defendants when the court receives the formal charging document, generally a complaint or citation from the District Attorney's Office or law enforcement agency. Misdemeanor and traffic filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are counted when the court receives the citation or complaint. Misdemeanors are counted by defendants and traffic violations are counted by charges.

**Felony** — Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of a state law that is punishable by death or imprisonment in the state prison.

**Gross Misdemeanor** — Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of state law that involves an offense that does not fit within the definitions of felony, misdemeanor, or traffic case.

**Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic** — Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for defendants charged with the violation of a state law or local ordinance that involves an offense punishable by fine or incarceration or both for no more than \$1,000 or 6 months, respectively.

**Misdemeanor, Traffic** — Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for moving and non-moving violations of traffic law or ordinance that do not pertain to parking of a motor vehicle. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

**Parking Violations** — Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for parking of a motor vehicle in violation of a traffic law or ordinance. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

**Appeal from Lower Court** — Cases heard at District Court in which the court reviews the judgment of a Justice or Municipal Court for a criminal case.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A criminal case is considered disposed when final adjudication for that case occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as date of sentencing, date of adjudication, or date charges are disposed, whichever occurs last.

**Criminal Cases Disposed** — For District Court, cases are disposed when transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion or before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, jury trial, and other manner of disposition. For Justice and Municipal Courts, cases are dismissed before or during preliminary hearing, guilty plea before or during preliminary hearing, waiver of preliminary hearing, bound over to District Court, bail forfeiture, transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion, dismissed before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, and jury trial.

## Civil Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when a petition or complaint is filed with the court or the court receives a motion and a court case number is assigned.

**Real Property** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with ownership or rights in real property excluding construction defect or negligence; includes landlord and tenant disputes, title to property, condemnation, eminent domain, and other real property cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Construction Defect** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with alleged defects in construction.

**Negligence Torts** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged omission to perform an act or use care to perform an act that causes personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death; includes auto, medical/dental, premises liability, and other negligence tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Torts** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged injury or wrong committed either against a person or person's property by a party who either did or did not do something they were not or were supposed to do; includes product liability, intentional misconduct, employment, and other tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Probate** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with the probate of a will or estate of a deceased person; includes summary administration, general administration, special administration, set asides, probate trusts, and other probate cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Other Civil** — Cases heard at District Court that include breach of contract, civil petition for judicial review, appeals from lower courts, civil writs, and all other civil matters that do not fit in one of the above categories or case types.

**General Civil** — Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money or damages where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$7,500.

**Small Claims** — Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$5,000.

**Summary Eviction** — Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with the exclusion of tenant for default of rent or specific categories of unlawful detainer.

**Temporary Protective Orders** — Cases heard at Justice Court for temporary order for protection. TPOs are counted as either domestic violence protective orders or stalking and harassment protective orders.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A civil case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as the date judgment is entered.

**Civil Cases Disposed** — For all trial courts, civil cases are disposed by voluntary dismissal, transfer before or during trial, involuntary dismissal, judgment on arbitration award, stipulated dismissal, stipulated judgment, default judgment, and adjudication on the merits by motion to dismiss, summary judgment, bench trial, and jury trial. Additionally, in Justice Courts, temporary protective orders are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transferred before or during trial, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial or hearing, decision with hearing, and decision with trial.

## Family Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when the court receives an originating petition, request, or complaint.

**Marriage Dissolution** — Cases heard at District Court that involve either divorce or annulment.

**Support/Custody** — Cases heard at District Court that request maintenance of a spouse or child or a determination with regard to control, care, or maintenance of a child. Both parties must reside in Nevada.

**Uniform Interstate Family Support Act** — Cases heard at District Court that require maintenance of a spouse or child when one party resides in another state.

**Adoptions** — Cases heard at District Court that involve a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not having that relationship naturally.

**Paternity** — Cases heard at District Court that involve paternity issues as defined by Nevada statute.

**Termination of Parental Rights** — Cases heard at District Court that involve termination of parental rights.

**Miscellaneous Domestic Relations Case** — Cases heard at District Court that involve a domestic relations issue that does not fit in one of the other family case types. Examples include name change or permission to marry.

**Guardianship** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with guardianship issues involving adults, minors, or trusts.

**Mental Health Cases** — Cases heard at District Court that deal with legal determination as to whether an individual is mentally ill or incompetent and should be placed or remain under care, custody, or treatment.

**Domestic Violence Protective Orders** — Cases heard at District Court for temporary order for protection when sufficient evidence exists that there has been domestic violence or the threat exists.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A family case is considered disposed when the decision is handed down and(or) the final order is filed, whichever occurs first.

**Family Cases Disposed** — For District Courts, family cases are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transfer, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial, decision with hearing, and decision with trial. Additionally, guardianship cases can be disposed for a person by death, reaching the age of majority, or restoration of competency; and for property by an order terminating guardianship or final accounting.

## Juvenile Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when the court receives the petition or citation.

**Criminal-Type Juvenile Petitions** — Cases heard at District Court that include a behavior that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Status Petitions** — Cases heard at District Court that includes petitions involving a juvenile in need of supervision. The juvenile may require guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, habitual disobedience, being ungovernable, or behavior that is injurious or dangerous to others.

**Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions** — Cases heard at District Court where the behavior of someone other than the juvenile causes the court to concern itself with the well being of the juvenile. Adults charged with abuse or neglect are counted in the appropriate criminal category.

**Miscellaneous Petitions** — Cases heard at District Court that involve juvenile cases that do not fit in one of the other juvenile categories. An example is Petition for Emancipation.

**Informal Hearing** — Any hearing by a judicial officer in which no formal charge has been filed with the court.

**Detention/Extradition Hearing** — Any hearing requesting a juvenile to be held in detention, or continued to be held in detention, pending further court action within the same or another jurisdiction.

**Protective Custody Hearing** — Any hearing held to determine if the risk to a child is great enough to warrant removal, or continued removal, from their custodian.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A juvenile case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs.

**Juvenile Cases Disposed** — For District Courts, juvenile cases are disposed by transfer, certification to adult, dismissal, plea or admission, statutory termination, wardship termination, judgment satisfied, and bench trial.